



OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

2022 *Virtual* ANNUAL CONFERENCE

<https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org/>

Beyond the Basics

March 5, 2022



Presentations will be available on the OBS website by March 5, 2022. You can view as your time permits and as often as you want. We will continue to add more educational videos and articles throughout the year.

As we are once again losing our biggest fund raiser, The Silent Auction, your donations, or membership or renewal will be greatly appreciated.

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Presenters

Andy Jones, Ph.D.

William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Chair and Curator of Ornithology

Invertebrates and Technologies: Direct Connections to Bird Populations

North American bird populations are constantly fluctuating, but the overall trends are negative for many species. This is particularly true for birds whose livelihoods depend on invertebrates (a year-round diet for some species, and a breeding season dependence for a great many species). Recent research has focused on the impacts of habitat alterations as well as changing climates on invertebrate populations. These global issues feel difficult to respond to, but anyone can have input on parks and their own yards that will be a net positive for birds. Birds also depend on a string of habitats across the hemispheres, as many species cover thousands of miles during migration each year. Motus towers and other tracking technologies are revealing impressive migratory feats as well as providing insights into conservation actions that are needed.

BIO:



Dr. Andy Jones is the William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Chair of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He came to Cleveland in 2006 after finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. A native of east Tennessee, he was inspired by the rich biodiversity of the Southern Appalachians. His childhood reptile and amphibian obsessions eventually morphed into a career as an ornithologist as well as a birder, a fish keeper, a gardener, and a hiker. Andy submits at least one eBird checklist per

day - after all, an ornithologist should spend a little time observing nature every day! His research includes work on genetic diversity and evolutionary history of North American birds, documentation of new hybrid combinations, and studies of migration through the Lights Out Cleveland project. His favorite bird was the Black-capped Chickadee when he was last asked, but the answer changes almost every day.

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Genelle Uhrig, M.Sc

Director of Ecology – The Wilds

Extreme Home Makeover: Wilds' Edition—American Kestrels Get New Digs and Flourish

In the Fall of 2020, with a generous donation from the Ohio Bluebird Society coupled with a grant from the Ohio Ornithological Society, 9 new American kestrel nest boxes were installed on telescoping poles at The Wilds. Apprentices monitored the boxes weekly during the 2021 nesting season and found great success. Ms. Uhrig will provide a history of American kestrel monitoring at The Wilds and present the results of last years' monitoring efforts.

Bio



Genelle Uhrig, M.Sc. (Director of Ecology- The Wilds) – Ms. Uhrig is a Conservation Biologist with 6 years of experience in field ecology and conservation genetics, specializing in non-invasive genetic studies utilizing scat and environmental DNA (eDNA) for species and individual ID, and parentage analyses. She has worked with a variety of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species and currently works with native species reintroduction efforts at The

Wilds, including Eastern hellbenders and the federally threatened, state endangered American burying beetle. In addition to working with native Ohio wildlife species, Ms. Uhrig also oversees restoration efforts at The Wilds.

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Dan Best and Rachel McKinney

Going for the Gold: Three Decades of Prothonary Warbler Husbandry



2021 was the 30th field season for the Upper Cuyahoga River Prothonotary Warbler Nesting Projects in Geauga County, Ohio. PROW'lers" Dan Best and Rachel McKinney present the trials and triumphs of providing artificial nest cavities (plastic jars) to increase nesting success for a population of prothonotary warblers (PROW, aka: the golden swamp warbler). Included will be techniques for avoiding losses to flood waters, predation, and tree swallow competition. Findings will be shared on longevity, pair bonding and multi-year nest site faithfulness through the use of color bands for individual bird identification. Also addressed are the impacts of house wrens and the weather-related habitat change that has presented challenges to in recent years.

Bio:



Rachel McKinney of Huntsburg, Geauga County, Ohio, with over 20 years' experience as a science, mathematics, and environmental educator. She currently teaches math and science Andrews Osborne Academy in Willoughby, Ohio. Rachel is an avid gardener and enjoys birding, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and playing banjo in old time string bands. She has been a partner in the Upper Cuyahoga River Prothonotary Warbler Nesting Project for 12 years.



Dan Best of Chardon, Geauga County, Ohio, A lifelong student of local ecology, Dan is a retired nature educator with over 40 years' experience in interpreting Ohio natural history and related cultural history, including almost 33 years with Geauga Park District. Dan also enjoys canoeing, kayaking, fishing and has played guitar in bands exploring various American music genres. Dan initiated the Upper Cuyahoga River Prothonotary Warbler Nesting Project in 1992.

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Bethany Gray

Bringing Back the Bluebird: Best Practices

Learn about the plight of Eastern Bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds, and what you can do to offset the damage done by the loss of nesting habitat, harsh weather, pesticides and fierce competition from non-native House Sparrows. Bethany will provide information about installing nest boxes, how to troubleshoot and protect against predators, and how to share data with scientists.

Bio:



Bethany has a B.A. in Education and M.A. in American History. She is also an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) and a Certified Ambassador for the National Wildlife Federation. Presently, she consults and leads workshops & programs for regional organizations promoting Citizen Science and wildlife habitat. Bethany is co-founder of "Operation Bluebird," a Project-Based Learning partnership engaging Yellow Springs middle school students as Citizen Scientists on local bluebird trails. This program is the subject of an article by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at www.NestWatch.org. In 2018, she was the recipient of the Blue Feather Award from the Ohio Bluebird Society and the Stewardship, Education and Citizen Science Award from The Ohio State College of Food, Agriculture & Environmental Sciences. She is the current President of the Glen Helen Association and a Board member of the Tecumseh Land Trust.

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Megan Shave, Ph.D.

Orchard Nest Boxes Benefit Falcons and Farmers in Michigan



Dr. Megan Shave is interested in the ecological services that birds provide in human-managed landscapes. Her Ph.D. dissertation at Michigan State University investigated the conservation and agricultural uses of nest boxes for American Kestrels in Michigan cherry orchards.

In her home state of Massachusetts, she has worked on bird population studies at the Manomet Bird Observatory and Woods Hole Research Center. She is currently the Conservation Agent & Planner for the City of Brockton, where she enjoys keeping an eye on the Peregrine Falcons that nest on a downtown cell tower.

Darlene Sillick

Creative and Meaningful Conservation Projects

Darlene will show some of her projects of 30 years and discuss how to organize, how to get volunteers and how to be a project manager and orchestrate valued conservation projects both locally and around the state.

Bio



She is presently Ohio Bluebird Society president and loves organizing the annual conference for OBS. She loves to bring people together for the good of helping nature and people of all ages get involved. She is a co-advisor for Ohio Young Birder Club, on the Ohio Ornithology Society Conservation committee and works with Boy Scouts as their Eagle Scout advisor. She is working with # 33 currently. She is also involved at Columbus Audubon and COAC. She works at Cardinal Health as a Senior Executive Administrative Assistant.

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Paula Ziebarth

European Starlings and House Sparrows – How Bad Can They Be?

Paula Ziebarth (Madame Wingnut) will discuss dangers surrounding the non-native European Starling. The efficacy of both passive and active management strategies will be reviewed.

Bio:



Like the Eastern Bluebird, Paula is native to Ohio. She grew up on the west side of Cleveland and settled in central Ohio after graduating from Ohio State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. She began monitoring Bluebird Trails in 2002. Paula is a Delaware County and Ottawa County Area Contact for the Ohio Bluebird Society. She also serves as Coordinator of the Delaware County Chapter of Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch and is a board member for Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. Last year Paula monitored over 400 nest sites in Delaware and Ottawa Counties. Birds she has worked with include Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, House Wrens and Purple Martins. She is also the author of OBS Newsletter, "Ask Madame WingNut".

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