

WINGTIPS



CANADA WARBLER, photographer Bill Naiman

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MAY 2022

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May 2022 Program

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 7 p.m.

Carlisle Reservation Visitor Center

Note that meetings are subject to local Covid regulations

Raptors in Rehab

Missy Jordan of Medina Raptor Center



Laura Jordan with friend

Medina Raptor Center was founded in 1990 with the mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and release birds of prey and songbirds. Over the last 30-plus years the Center has become one of the leading raptor rehab centers in Ohio. The Center's staff treats hundreds of birds each year while remaining a non-profit organization that relies on donations from the public and countless hours from its volunteers. The Center's outreach programs impact thousands of people per year.

Missy Jordan will discuss the work of the Medina Raptor Center, the problems the staff works with, and how humans can coexist with birds of prey as well as songbirds. She will discuss the impact predators have on our ecosystems as well as the impact humans can have on them.

BRAS Board Member Applications Requested

Black River Audubon Society (BRAS), which serves the Lorain County area, is seeking passionate and energetic board members to help protect wildlife and their habitats through science, education, advocacy, and conservation.

The BRAS board provides nature speakers, conservation programming, birding field trips, and other opportunities to its members and the community. Specific skills an applicant may have include previous nonprofit or board experience, fundraising, event planning, strong community connections, newsletter experience, and a passion for birds and conservation.

If interested, contact [*blackriveraudubon@gmail.com*](mailto:blackriveraudubon@gmail.com) or text to 440-610-8626 for further information and an application.

BRAS is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Incorporated in 1905, National Audubon is one of the oldest conservation organizations in the world.

Spring Weekly Bird Walks

Six weekly bird walks are still on the schedule for Elyria and Oberlin. Gina Swindell will lead the walks at Elyria's Elywood and Cascade Parks. Hikers should meet at the Elywood parking area. Diana Steele will lead the hikes at Oberlin's South Woods.

The Oberlin walks begin at 7:30 a.m. on the Saturdays of April 30 and May 7, 14. The Elyria walks will be at 8:30 a.m. on the Sundays of May 1, 8, 15.

Spring and Summer Monthly Field Trips

Saturday, May 7, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Magee Marsh

13229 State Route 2, Oak Harbor

Paul Sherwood to lead

June 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Oak Openings

5440 Wilkins Road (Oak Openings Lodge), Whitehouse, OH

Tammy Martin to lead

July 16, 200, 9:00 a.m.
Middle Bass Island
5174 E. Water Street, Port Clinton
Lisa Brohl to lead

August 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Kelley's Island
510 W. Main Street, Lakeside Marblehead
Kate Pilacky to lead

CANADA WARBLER
Cardellina canadensis
By **Barbara Baudot**

It was mid-May, in northern Maine, when I hiked in a damp area of woods thick with low-lying shrubs and trees, including wild rhododendrons, whose branches were decked in green mosses and lichens. Near a babbling brook, I glimpsed a yellow flash a few feet away. I surmised the bright light that flickered across my path was a yellow warbler.

In fact, it was a Canada warbler, belonging to the family of New World warblers that traces its origins to Central America. A black collar with parallel stripes decorated his luminous yellow chest. His upper body was covered in bluish gray feathers with a black frame edging his face. Unbroken white rings encircled his eyes.

Minutes later I heard a sweet warbling song and saw him perched on a branch of a wild laurel in a thicket of dense mossy undergrowth. He caught my eye when he hopped to another branch while flicking his wings and tail. An insectivore like other warblers, he was flushing insects from foliage as well as catching them on the wing.

The female was not far away. I spotted her on the ground hopping with a clump of moss in her beak with which she lines her nest of twigs, dried leaves, and grasses. The nest was hidden in the nearby undergrowth. Later I spotted her in the hollow of a dead tree root.



Canada Warbler

(Photo by Dale Bonk, Audubon Photography Awards)

Minimally dimorphic, the female is a slightly paler replica of her mate, although without the black head frame. Both the male and female retain the same plumage all year. The pair will remain monogamous at least for the current breeding season and maybe longer.

Seeing this pair reminded me of the pair of Canada warblers on branches of a wild laurel, *Rhododendron maximum* painted by Audubon. Many writings and images suggest the timeless association of these birds with wild laurel bushes and rhododendrons native to their habitats.

The warblers I saw might have just arrived from wintering in the northwest range of the Andes Mountains in South America. Canada warblers breed from northeastern United States throughout the eastern half of Canada. Their breeding season lasts two months, the time needed for the female to build the nest, incubate her 3 or 4 eggs, and for both parents to protect the hatchlings until their readiness to fly.

By August, these warblers join a mixed flock of small birds returning to the boreal forests thick with undergrowth and damp ravines in the northern Andes Mountains. The dangerous 3000-mile flight is overland, down through the eastern half of the United States, eastern Mexico, and Central America to their destination, likely in Peru or Bolivia.

With a yearly population decline of 3.2%, Canada warblers are classified as "threatened" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. This warbler is protected in Canada and the United States at the federal level.

References: Audubon Birds of America in audubon.org; Canada Warbler in Wikipedia; Canada Warbler in allaboutbirds.org; ebird.org/species/canwar; naturecanada.ca/discover-nature/endangered-species/Canada-warbler; ontario.ca/page/Canada-warbler.

BRAS Hog Island Scholarship Recipients

Black River Audubon Society is proud to announce its three Hog Island summer scholarship recipients for 2022. Two adults and one teen will be attending camps this summer at Hog Island, Maine with assistance provided by BRAS.



Hog Island Boat Landing
(Photo by Jim Jablonski)

Tim Fairweather, senior naturalist and park manager at Sandy Ridge Reservation, will upgrade his birding skills when he attends the Raptor Migration & Monhegan Island camp. He expects to pass on his increased birding knowledge to the Lorain

County community through his park programming at Sandy Ridge.

Pat Sturges is a Huron County Master Gardener with Ohio State University's extension program, and an administrative assistant in the Geology Department at Oberlin College. She expects to add to her knowledge of natural science during Hog Island's Field Ornithology camp.

Black River Audubon awarded a scholarship to a member of the Ohio Young Birder's northeast chapter for the second consecutive year. This year's recipient is Mariana Thomas of Oberlin, who has been an active birder since she was seven years old. Mariana is looking forward to connecting with "bird nerds" from around the country during the Coastal Main Bird Studies for Teens camp this June.

Carlisle Visitor Center to Display BRAS Members' Artwork



Be sure to check out the art wall at Carlisle Visitor Center during the month of May. You just might see your friend's nature-related art!

Black River Audubon Society members were asked to donate their nature-related photographs, drawings, paintings, and other items to enliven the hallway leading to the Discovery Den overlooking the Center's Wildlife Garden. Our members' creations will be on display throughout May. Check them out!

TRICOLORED HERON

Egretta tricolor

By **Jim Jablonski**

The tricolored heron is a bird I want to add to my life list. For one thing, with my age-related vision problems, I find myself specializing in larger birds that stay in one place for a while. Add to that the beauty of these herons and I feel a need to head to the east coast to see them up close.

Once called the Louisiana heron, the tricolored is a native of the Gulf and East Coasts from South America up through Mexico, around the state of Florida, and on to the Carolinas. Its range expanded northward through much of the 20th century. Unfortunately, its numbers have been declining more recently but it is still quite common in the southeastern states where it congregates in large colonies for breeding.

Like other herons, the tricolored prefers to feed alone, often chasing others away, while foraging in shallow water for its prey of small fish, crustaceans, insects, and amphibians.



Tricolored Heron

(Photo by Monica Fowler, Audubon Photography Awards)

Relatively short for a heron at its typical 26-inches, the tricolored seems taller than it is due to its very slender neck and body as can be seen in the above photo.

The tricolored heron's name is an understatement as its plumage varies from white through deep blue to black while at times providing a shimmering reddish color. And during non-breeding season its blue face turns a bright yellow!

Whatever its size, the beautiful tricolored heron stands out!

Audubon Avian Quiz

1. Approximately how many known bird species are there?
 - a) 2,000
 - b) 5,000
 - c) 10,000
 - d) 20,000
2. Which species of bird can sleep while it is flying?
 - a) albatross
 - b) condor
 - c) bald eagle
 - d) turkey vulture
3. What is the average heartbeat per minute of a bird in flight?
 - a) 100
 - b) 1,000
 - c) 2,000
 - d) 3,000
4. Which bird can fly backward without relying on the wind?
 - a) Finches
 - b) Sparrows
 - c) Flycatchers
 - d) Hummingbirds
5. Where are yellow-bellied sapsuckers found?
 - a) Canada and the eastern United States
 - b) Western United States
 - c) Southern United States
 - d) Central America

Source: 73 Interesting Bird Trivia Questions (and Answers)

Answers can be found at the bottom of the next page.

Black River Audubon Membership Only
(Including Wingtips) is \$15/Year

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Email address _____

Send with \$15 check to Black River Audubon
P.O. Box 33, Elyria, OH 44036

“The mission of the Black River Audubon Society is to promote conservation and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife through advocacy, education, stewardship, field trips, and programs for the benefit of all people of today and tomorrow.”

*****OR*****

National Audubon Membership Application Only
(Includes membership in Black River Audubon and subscriptions to WINGTIPS and AUDUBON magazine: \$20/year)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Chapter Code S52, 7XCH8
Send your check to: National Audubon Society,
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014
Attention: Chance Mueleck

To pay online, go to blackriveraudubon.org/membership and select the type of membership you prefer.

David Lindo, the Urban Birder, To Speak To Black River Audubon Society

Monday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Terrace at Lakeview Park
1800 West Erie Ave., Lorain



(Photo courtesy of Asherita Viajera)

David Lindo, known worldwide as the Urban Birder, has agreed to speak to Black River Audubon Society members. The event is open to the general public as well.

A broadcaster, writer, speaker, educator, and bird tour leader, Lindo's mission is to engage city dwellers around the world to the birds in their urban environments. He stresses that birds are everywhere and we can enjoy birding in the city, and see a wide variety of species, just as much as in the countryside. After all, he does so in his native London, England, and other major cities around the world.

Lindo, a Fellow of the International League of Conservation Writers, was recently named as the 7th most influential person in wildlife by BBC Wildlife Magazine.

The Black River Audubon Society's special event will be held at Lorain Lakeview Park's Sunset Terrace on May 23 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are required and can be obtained at blackriveraudubon.org. There is a \$10 charge per ticket.



TRI-COLORED HERON, photographer Alecia Gorsky



BLACK RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

"Birding Since 1958"

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