

# Delaware County Bird Club NEWSLETTER



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March 2026

## Kestrels in Delaware County: Three Decades of Monitoring a Changing Landscape

This presentation by Tim Bischoff traces the story of American Kestrels in Delaware County through more than 30 years of nest box monitoring. It begins with the first boxes installed in 1993 by Dick Tuttle and Dick Phillips on highway signs along US 23 and US 36/37, and follows their relocation to rural roads as the trail evolved.

Bischoff highlights long-term trends in occupancy, reproductive success, and habitat change, drawing on a 22-year dataset during which 1,373 kestrels fledged from the monitored boxes.

The program also examines the land use surrounding nest sites and how it has shifted over the past two decades.

The talk concludes with a look at ongoing research, including camera-based behavioral studies, nest-temperature monitoring, and the use of AI to analyze pair bonds across years. See Page 3 for Bischoff's bio



An American Kestrel nest.

### DELAWARE COUNTY BIRD CLUB PROGRAMS

The Delaware County Bird Club in-person meetings and program presentations have resumed. They take place on the fourth Monday of each month, September through April, except in November and December when they are held on alternate days to accommodate the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Meetings are held in the lodge at Deer Haven Park at 4183 Liberty Road, Delaware Ohio, 43015. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., programs begin at 7 p.m., and are followed by reports of local bird sightings and socializing. Meeting dates can also be found on the Preservation Parks of Delaware County calendar at this link: <https://preservationparks.recdesk.com/Community/Calendar>

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# 100 Years ago, in the Auk (American Ornithologists Union)

By Rich Bradley

For many years the American Ornithologists Union was the preeminent scientific organization for the study of birds (ornithology) in North America. Then referred to as the "AOU" it was the source for bird science and regularly published "The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds." This is the list that everyone who kept a life list would have used as their guide. The journal for the society was *The Auk*: a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. In addition to scientific articles, the journal included a General Notes section near the back of most issues. Here are two reports from the January 1926 issue (Vol. XLIII).

**A Gannet at Painesville Ohio.**—On November 2, 1925, Mr. Grow of the Grand River Fish Co., of this place, telephoned me that they had caught a strange bird which they wished me to identify. I drove to the fish house and found, confined in one of the fish boxes, a beautiful immature Gannet (*Sula bassana*). I was very much surprised as I never expected to see a Gannet in this part of the country.

The bird was in the gray plumage, heavily dotted with white on head and neck, the spots becoming fewer and V-shaped on the body. The eyes were light gray with a black pupil, and the bill dark horn color.

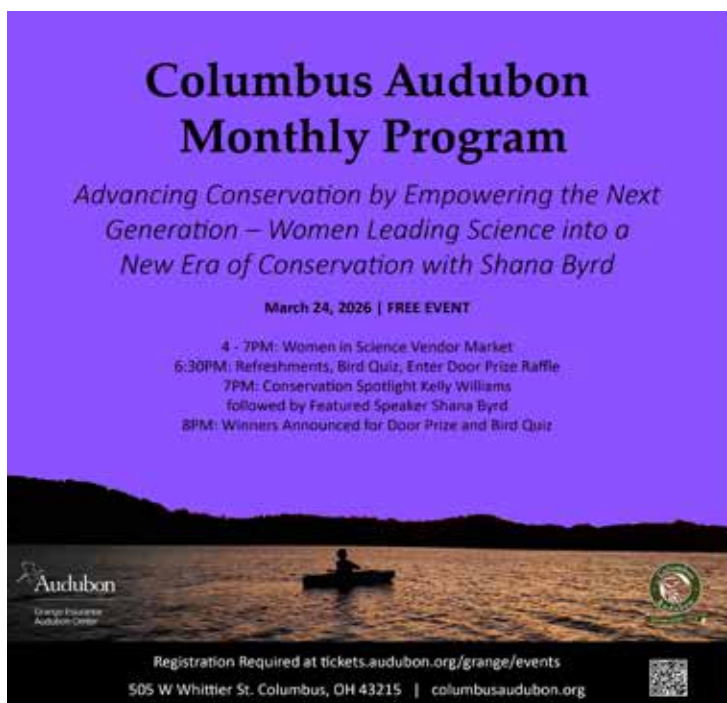
Mr. Grow told me that they were lifting the fish nets out of the lake for the season, and had been throwing out many rotten fish to the Gulls, when this big glutton appeared and ate so much that he could not rise from the water, so they put out in a small boat and caught him. I visited him again, the

next day and, after photographing him and placing a band on his right leg, took him to the beach and gave him his liberty. He was loath to leave but finally swam out onto the lake, diving through some of the waves and riding over others. He seemed to be enjoying himself, flapping his wings, spreading his tail and ducking his head under the water. After going out onto the lake, for some distance, he turned, and swam off in a northeasterly direction.—E. E. Hader, Painesville, Ohio.

**Belted Kingfisher Preyed upon by Red-tailed Hawk.**—Having read the note concerning the "Kingfisher and Cooper's Hawk" by Charles Eugene Johnson, with additions by the Editor, in the October (1925) issue of 'The Auk,' the writer was reminded of a recently acquired bit of information along the same line.

On October 17, an immature male Red-tailed Hawk was picked up from a dump north of Toronto, where it had been discarded by some hunter a few days previously. The specimen was preserved for the Museum collection and the stomach contents were examined. Besides a small amount of *Microtus* hair, the feet and some feathers, skin and flesh of a Belted Kingfisher were found. This was the first instance of which I knew of the Belted Kingfisher being preyed upon by a Raptorial bird.

It is evident that the species is not always successful in escaping from members of the Hawk family, and in this case it had a less dashing adversary to contend with than the one observed by Mr. Johnson.—L. L. Snyder. Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ontario.





**Columbus Audubon  
Monthly Program**

*Advancing Conservation by Empowering the Next  
Generation – Women Leading Science into a  
New Era of Conservation with Shana Byrd*

March 24, 2026 | FREE EVENT

4 - 7PM: Women in Science Vendor Market  
6:30PM: Refreshments, Bird Quiz, Enter Door Prize Raffle  
7PM: Conservation Spotlight Kelly Williams  
followed by Featured Speaker Shana Byrd  
8PM: Winners Announced for Door Prize and Bird Quiz

Registration Required at [tickets.audubon.org/grange/events](https://tickets.audubon.org/grange/events)  
505 W Whittier St. Columbus, OH 43215 | [columbusaudubon.org](https://columbusaudubon.org)



**WOMEN IN SCIENCE  
VENDOR MARKET**

LOCAL FEMALE ARTISTS, WRITERS,  
AND ENTREPRENEURS

COLUMBUS AUDUBON MONTHLY PROGRAM  
SUPPORTED BY  
GRANGE INSURANCE AUDUBON CENTER

MARCH 24, 2026 | 4:00PM - 7:00PM  
FREE EVENT



Women artists, writers, and entrepreneurs will be showcasing work related to science, nature, and femininity. Don't miss this opportunity to support incredible work by local makers. Doors open at 4:00pm. Vendors will be open and selling their work from 4:00 - 7:00pm. Monthly Program with speakers to follow. Registration required. To learn more and register scan the QR code.



Registration at [tickets.audubon.org/grange/events](https://tickets.audubon.org/grange/events)  
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Continued from Page 1

### About Tim Bischoff

After working over 30 years in telecommunications at AT&T, Lucent Technologies and Verizon, Tim retired in 2019. He spends his time managing nest boxes in Franklin and Delaware County for American Kestrels, Wood Ducks, Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Prothonotary Warblers, and a few Flying Squirrels. He also enjoys growing native plants from seed and working with students from Grandby Elementary and McCord Middle School in the Worthington School District.



An American Kestrel nestbox.

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Tim Bischoff.

## Can you identify this?



Answer will be in our next issue. The mystery bird for March was photographed near Delaware Ohio on 5 February 2026.

The mystery bird for February was a Hooded Merganser, drake, photographed at Char Mar Park on March 1, 2018.