



March Branch Meeting

The Plight of Migratory Birds: How Birds Interact with Urban Spaces

Jonathon Rice, Ornithologist
Urban Bird Conservation Coordinator
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

March 14, 2024 10:00 AM

Murrysville Community Library
4130 Sardis Road
Murrysville, PA

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Migratory birds account for some of the steepest declining populations of birds in the world due to immense natural pressures from habitat degradation, interspecies competition, loss of food availability, and predation. The additional pressures directly caused by humans may be too much for some species to survive.

Southwestern Pennsylvania can be a safer place for migratory birds to stop over during migration, breed during the summer, or reside over the winter by enhancing stop over habitat, reducing artificial light at night, promoting the use of bird safe glass, and increasing avian rehabilitation.

A 2015 graduate of Paul Smith's College, Jonathan Rice is involved with research projects at CMNH including BirdSafe and Lights Out Pittsburgh, studying light pollution and avian collisions with buildings, and at Powdermill Nature Reserve's Motus Wildlife Tracking Technology, a network of automated radio tracking stations designed to provide critical data for researchers about migratory bird behavior, stop over site importance, and impacts of weather events.

The program is presented in conjunction with the Murrysville Community Library and the public is welcome. Please join us to learn more about migratory birds.



Like us at

[AAUW-Murrysville Branch](https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Murrysville-Branch)

Snow Policy

If FR Schools are closed, AAUW meetings are canceled.

If FR Schools are delayed, AAUW meetings will be held as scheduled.





President's Letter

Perhaps you were as amused as I was with a Super Bowl ad featuring "migrating" Ravens, Seahawks, and Eagles. As football players soar through the air, the narrator laments, "Each year we must say good-bye to watching these majestic creatures live – but never fear, they will be back."

If only we could be so sure that all migrating birds would be back! Did you know that over 599 million birds die every year in North America after colliding with buildings? Please plan to come to our March Branch meeting to hear Jonathan Rice, Urban Bird Conservation Coordinator at Powdermill Nature Reserve, speak on the plight of migratory birds and the way in which birds interact with urban spaces.

A repeated theme in my letters to our members has been the thought that I love AAUW because our programs introduce topics which are completely new to me. I had no idea what an "urban bird coordinator" does. Nor did I know that there was a program such as BirdSafe Pittsburgh, which monitors migrating birds and tracks their collisions with windows. Our speaker, Mr. Rice, can be found installing antennas to help locate migrating birds using the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. I am so anxious to know more!

We are so very grateful to Rose-Marie Muzika for arranging for Mr. Rice to speak to us this month. When our previously scheduled speaker had to migrate to other obligations, Rose-Marie rose to the challenge of providing a speaker. We now look forward to hearing Don German speak on eagles and the importance of biodiversity sometime next year.

My morning walks with my dog Ella are much nicer now that temperatures have moderated and some migrating birds have returned to our area. It is a treat to see robins searching for worms and to hear their chirping. Spring is coming – a thought made so much nicer by the return of our migratory feathered friends.

I look forward to seeing you at our March Branch meeting!

Diane Kaufmann

AAUW Open Membership

AAUW members will have the opportunity to vote on changing the long-standing membership requirements to join AAUW, thus opening AAUW to those who do not hold degrees. Please thoughtfully consider your position on dropping the degree requirement for membership and then vote at aauw.org. Voting begins on April 3rd and ends on May 15th.

For more information go to aauw.org and then type "open membership" in the website's search engine to find the Open Membership Toolkit.



February Meeting Photos



Spring Used Book Sale

April 25, 26 & 27, 2024

Many thanks to all of you who made our 2023 Spring and Fall Used Book Sales (UBS) such great successes. We raised over \$8400.00! Let's do it once more in 2024. Our AAUW Branch in partnership with the Murrysville Community Library is sponsoring the 2024 Spring UBS to be held in the library. The sale dates and times are these:

Thursday, April 25 from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Friday, April 26 from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday, April 27 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

This year, we have Task Managers for various parts of the UBS process, especially for those tasks that are absolutely necessary but considered "behind the scenes." My sincere and grateful thanks to the volunteer Task Managers for their invaluable help! Now, here is how YOU can help.

Help by Advertising the Sale:

Please spread the word that the library will begin accepting puzzle and book donations on **March 25, 2024** for the April UBS. We accept puzzles for all ages that are in good condition with all the pieces included. We also accept adult and young adult fiction & nonfiction books and children's books for which we have **extra need**. There is such great interest in children's books (which is a wonderful thing!!) that we ran out of these early in the November 2023 sale. Please let anyone you know who may have children's books in need of new homes that we would greatly appreciate their donation to our April sale. Then, continue to spread the word about the sale itself.

Help by Donating Books, Puzzles and Bookmarks:

Please collect your own books and puzzles in need of new homes and drop them off at the library. We are also looking for donations of *bookmarks* to offer as a perk to our customers at the check-out table at the sale. Drop off the bookmarks in a separate package labeled "Bookmarks" with your book and puzzle donations. Perhaps you are crafty and will create some bookmarks for us. Maybe you will see a good deal on interesting bookmarks as you shop online or at local stores. Please buy a few and donate to our cause. Or maybe you can find groups in our community that would like to donate

a few of their advertising bookmarks to our cause. We have offered a few bookmarks in the past that we happened to find among the donations. We are launching a more direct effort to collect even more bookmarks for the April sale. Thank you!

Help by Culling and Sorting the Donations:

Once the books and puzzles are dropped off at the library, we cull the donations either because they do not fit our categories (we do not accept medical advice, textbooks, etc.) or because they are in poor condition (musty, moldy, etc.). The accepted books are then sorted into our categories and stored until the sale. I am the Task Manager for the Culling & Sorting Teams. Please contact me for more information and to volunteer for this vital and very satisfying part of the sale. There will be a training session for those interested.

Help with the Sale:

Please help during the UBS. Contact me to volunteer and sign up to help during one, a few or all days of the sale:

Set Up: Wednesday, April 24. Time TBD
Day 1: Thursday, April 25 (9:30 AM – 1 PM)
Day 1: Thursday, April 25 (1 PM – 5 PM)
Day 2: Friday, April 26 (9:30 AM – 1 PM)
Day 2: Friday, April 26 (1 PM – 5 PM)
Day 3: Saturday, April 27 (9:30 AM – 1 PM)
Day 3: Saturday, April 27 (1 PM – 5 PM)
Take Down: Saturday, April 27 (3 PM – 5 PM)

The Used Book Sale benefits our community in so many ways. We support literacy and puzzling across the lifespan with our very affordable books and puzzles. We help our neighbors with their Spring Cleaning by donating to our cause. We raise money that is then used by the library and by our own AAUW branch to provide educational programs and materials to our community. And ... the UBS is fun!! Please volunteer to be a part of the April sale. If we each help out a little, together we will get the job done.

Thank you,

Jane Kerr
UBS Chair
724 331-5458
jskerr4829@gmail.com



Info for Primary Election

Tuesday, April 23 Primary Election Day

Monday, April 8 Last day to register to vote or change party registration

Tuesday, April 16 Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot.

Tuesday, April 23 Last day to return a mail-in or absentee ballot

Offices up for election in 2024

State Attorney General (4 year term)

State Auditor (4 year term)

State Treasurer (4 year term)

State Senate, 39th district (4 year term)

State Representative, 55th district (2 year term)

U.S. Senate (6-year term)

U.S. House, 12th district (2 year term)

U.S. President (4 year term)

For more information, go to: www.vote.pa.gov

Westmoreland County Board of Elections:

www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/251/Elections

Westmoreland County Courthouse

2 N. Main Street

Ste. 109

Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: 724-830-3150

Hours: Mon.- Fri 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



Meet New Member Deborah Ellis

I'm a mother, grandmother and wife who's been fortunate to have balanced my family life with a rewarding career in social work. After graduating from Columbia University with my MSW, I spent many years developing and managing programs in New York City, in the fields of child abuse and homelessness in older adults. As I've wound down my career more recently, I've shifted to working part-time in private psychotherapy practice. My spouse and I moved to the Pittsburgh area in 2022, along with my daughter and three young grandchildren. It's my first time living outside of New York, and I'm eager to connect to the community and make new friends. I'm excited to join AAUW, get involved in its projects and activities, and get to know its members!

Our Three Dianas



Reading for Pleasure

Book recommendations can come from so many places. Carol Gezon has been sending out a list of books that our RFP group have told her about. One on that list is a book my grandson gifted me—*The Paris Bookseller* by Kerri Maher which tells the story Sylvia Beach and her establishment of Shakespeare and Company and her subsequent publishing of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The first two books my grandson gave me were two by Danielle Steele which I dutifully read (not bad but too much of the unrealistic life of the rich and famous). Oliver said a book clerk had recommended them to him when he said that they were for his grandmother. From my laughing acceptance of those two books, Ollie realized he needed to up his game—no more “grandmother books”. That's when he came up with *The Paris Bookseller*. I really enjoyed reading about the literary life of the Lost Generation in Paris as portrayed in this fascinating book. But I'm ashamed to admit I have never read Joyce's *Ulysses* and I'm not sure if I want to. One NY Times reviewer started his review of *Ulysses* with “...the average intelligent reader will glean little or nothing from it...save bewilderment and a sense of disgust”. He goes on to say “*Ulysses* is the most important contribution that has been made to fictional literature in the 20th century....it is likely there is no one writing English today that could parallel Mr. Joyce's feat, and it is also likely that few would care to do it were they capable.” I did enjoy reading about Sylvia Beach's efforts to help Joyce although he was not an easy person to help.

My sister Kathy recommended a couple of books by the SF author John Scalzi when she saw me reading Scalzi's *Old Man's War*. Both of her suggestions I have read and enjoyed. *Agent to the Stars* is a hilarious take on Hollywood agents and publicists and ugly extraterrestrials who stink. *Redshirts* is a satire on *Star Trek* plus the “what if” responsibilities of a screenwriter on the fate of his minor characters. Both books are laugh-out-loud reads.

As I was listening to a ZOOM interview of two authors from a Mystery Lovers Bookshop



evening event, I heard one author thank the other for a recommendation of Mary Robinette Kowal's *The Spare Man* which is a take-off on Nick and Nora Charles's murder mysteries but set in Space. I remembered reading one of Kowal's fantasy books set in the Regency Era and I decided I had to read this recommended book as well. Cute!

Audiobook sales catch my eye as well. A sale on my libro.fm introduced me to *A Toshikazu Kawaguchi Book Set: Before the Coffee Gets Cold*. I drove all over Pittsburgh listening to the three audiobooks in the set; *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, *Tales From the Cafe*, and *Before Your Memory Fades*. My only problem was that some of the stories had me crying, and as I did my errands, I would be walking in stores surreptitiously wiping away my tears. Tears and all, I recommend this series. Kawaguchi just came out with *Before We Say Goodbye* in September, 2023, and is scheduled to bring out *Before We Forget Kindness* in September, 2024. A lovely series. Another sales offering has me reading Peter Mayles' Sam Levitt's *Caper* series set in France starting with *The Vintage Caper*. I love anything set in France!

But this month of March, we all need to come together and discuss Fiona Davis's *The Lions of Fifth Avenue*. Fiona Davis sets her novels in iconic New York City buildings often with two storylines connecting two women and their different time periods. If you've visited New York City, any reference to “The Lions” immediately call to mind the New York Public Library. Davis takes us into the Public Library with Laura Lyons' story in 1913 and then connects with her granddaughter's story in 1993. Betty Hollingsworth will lead our discussion at the home of Annie Rivers – 3002 Wedgewood Court, Murrysville, PA on **Tuesday**, March 26th at 10:00 AM.



Annie S. Rivers
RFP Chair (cell 412-354-1411)

March 2024			
7	Thurs.	9:45 AM	Board Meeting — in the Murrysville Library Meeting Room†. Board members please let Diane know if unable to attend.
14	Thurs.	10:00 AM	Branch Meeting — TechNook† in the Murrysville Community Library
18	Mon.		Deadline to email Focus articles to Donna Beard at djbeard2@gmail.com
25	Mon.		Starting of Book Sale donations
26	Tue.	10:00 AM	Reading for Pleasure – at the home of Annie Rivers, 3002 Wedgewood Court. Please let Annie know at 412-354-1411 or anniesrivers@yahoo.com if you're planning on coming.
27	Wed	Noon	Duplicate Bridge at the home of Nancy Pottmeyer, 3104 Deerfield Court.
31	Sun.		

† The Murrysville Community Library (MCL) Meeting Room is located at the entrance to the Murrysville Community Library, 4130 Sardis Road. The TechNook is located in the main library room just before the main stacks.



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