

*Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland*

**BIRDING 101: AN INTRODUCTION TO IDENTIFICATION, AND THE LIFE OF BIRDS FOR THE BEGINNING BIRDER**

**Goals of the Course**

This course is designed for the VERY beginning birder. No prior knowledge is expected. The goals of the course are:

1. To enhance your appreciation of birds.
2. To teach you to identify the most common birds of Ohio and a few others.
3. To teach you basic information about bird structure, function and behavior.
4. To encourage you to become more involved in local conservation efforts to preserve the habitats of our feathered friends.

The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland offers many Saturday Field trips throughout the year which will give you an opportunity to view birds. In the spring, there are multiple birding opportunities with many organizations throughout Northeastern Ohio. You are encouraged to attend these trips as often as you can.

In addition, our Saturday Afternoon Backyard Naturalist program will emphasize birds for the 2011-2012 series. The Birding 101 classes are mostly scheduled on the same day as these presentations which are held from 3:00-5:00 PM.

**2011-2012 Class Schedule  
and tentative topics.**

**Saturday October 22, 2011**

Lecture 1: Humans and birds – a brief history  
Lab 1: Getting started in birding. How to ID birds.

**Saturday November 12, 2011**

Lecture 2: The outside story (feathers, wings, feet, beaks) and a bony framework.  
Lab 2: Examine feather types, wings, skeletons

**Saturday December 10, 2011**

Lecture 3: The inside story I – Cardiovascular, respiratory and muscular systems  
Lab 3: Examine pigeon anatomy  
Bird ID: Ducks, Geese, Swans, Fowl

**Saturday January 21, 2012**

Lecture 4: The inside story II – Digestion, excretion, nervous, endocrine  
Lab 4: Bird ID- Tubenoses, Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Wading birds (herons, egrets, bitterns)

**Saturday February 18, 2012**

Lecture 5: How do birds communicate?  
Lab 5: Bird ID: Vultures, Hawks, Falcons, Eagles, Owls  
Lecture 6: A year in the life of a bird

**Saturday March 24, 2012**

Lab 6: Bird ID: Pigeons, Doves, Cuckoos, Cranes, Marsh birds, Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, Nightjars, Swifts, Hummingbirds

**Saturday, April 14, 2012**

Lecture 7: How birds migrate  
Lab 7: Bird ID: Alcids, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Perching birds I

**Saturday May 5, 2012**

Lecture 8: Breeding season- mate selection, courtship, breeding, nests  
Lab 8: Bird ID: Perching birds II

**Saturday May 19, 2012**

**International Migratory Bird Day**

ASGC's fourth annual celebration of International Migratory Bird Day will be held at the Education Center from 1-5 pm. Students in this course are

invited to attend and see the birds from Back to the Wild and participate in all the bird focused activities of the day. Volunteers from this course welcome!

**Saturday, June 23, 2012**

Lecture 9: Breeding season – eggs, young, and more  
Lab 9: Bird ID: Perching birds III

**Saturday July 14, 2012**

Lecture 10: Ecology and Conservation of Birds, Citizen Science  
Lab 10: Bird ID: Perching birds IV and some loose ends

Classes are held at the Education Center on the Novak Sanctuary of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, 382 Townline Road Aurora, Ohio 44202.

Classes are scheduled from 12:30-2:30 PM. on Saturdays.

**Required materials for course:**

1. A good field guide to the birds of eastern North America.
2. Binoculars to use watching your own bird feeders and as many bird walks as you can attend.
3. A notebook and writing implement.
4. Peterson Field Guides "**Finding Your Wings**" Available at Amazon.com and at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. About \$15.00. We will be using this as a workbook with assignments to do between classes. I will provide alternative references to the page designations from the Petersons Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America if you have another field guide.

***If you are interested in this course,  
please email  
auduboncleveland@hotmail.com***