

**Audubon Ohio Presents:
Birds and Climate Change: On the Move
Featuring Gregory S. Butcher, PhD
Wednesday, November 18th 2009
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
7:30 pm**

Birds are among the most adaptable of wildlife - as long as they can find suitable habitat, they are able to travel substantial distances north, inland, or to higher latitudes. That is one of the things that make them sensitive environmental indicators - alerting us to ecological disruption, often before it directly affects us.

Gregory S. Butcher, Ph.D, National Audubon Society's Director of Bird Conservation, presents findings that show nearly 60% of the 305 bird species found in North America in winter are on the move, shifting their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles. Audubon's analysis reveals that many species that winter in the U.S. are moving significantly north - strong evidence that global warming is already altering their - and our - environment. The birds' northward movement is another signal that climate change is here and action is needed now.

Bio:

Gregory S. Butcher, Ph.D., is Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society. In this role he oversees Audubon's State of the Birds analyses and other research related to bird conservation. He also works closely with Audubon's partner organizations including Bird Conservation Alliance, BirdLife International, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and Partners in Flight.

Greg began working for Audubon as Director of Citizen Science in December of 2002 and switched less than a year later to Director of Bird Conservation. He has had a long association with Audubon's Christmas Bird Count: as a participant since 1965, as a count compiler and database manager from 1984-92, and as a researcher since 1984.

From 1992 to 1998, Greg served as Executive Director of the American Birding Association (ABA) where he spearheaded the addition of education and conservation initiatives to the organization's program agenda. Under his leadership, ABA's membership grew from 11,500 to 20,000 in five years.

Previously, Greg was the Midwest Coordinator for Partners In Flight where he served on the species assessment technical committee, which determined many of the scores that underlie Audubon's State of the Birds: WatchList methodology today. He also has served as editor of Birder's World magazine.

Greg started his career at Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology as the Director of Bird Population Studies. His key accomplishments included helping to launch Project FeederWatch, an annual survey of birds that visit feeders in winter, and the National

Science Experiments, where citizen scientists collected data to answer research questions about breeding habitat requirements of tanagers, birdseed preferences, and pigeon behavior and coloration.

Greg is an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and past president of the Association of Field Ornithologists. and has field experience in Costa Rica, where he completed the Tropical Ecology course of the Organization for Tropical Studies, organized a symposium and field workshop on monitoring bird populations at the First International Wildlife Management Congress, and organized a joint meeting of the American Birding Association, Association of Field Ornithologists, and Costa Rican Ornithologists' Association that attracted more than 400 participants.

Greg earned his B.A. in Zoology from Connecticut College and his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Washington. He has been an active field birder since the age of 11, birding in 47 of the 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Chile, Europe, and South Africa. His number one birding goal is to see male birds of paradise displaying at a breeding lek.