

Bruce Presents
Birding:
From Back Yard to Big Year



Image: Red-Winged Blackbird, photo by Brendan Murtha.

GREENWICH, CT, November 19, 2021- Birding is an enduring pastime that provides amateurs and experts alike with an opportunity to experience the great outdoors. Although birding has been around for ages, in recent years the hobby has witnessed a resurgence in popularity. From crowds gathering to catch a glimpse of the Central Park mandarin duck (dubbed New York’s most eligible bachelor in 2018) to the infamous video of an African American birdwatcher being harassed during the early days of the pandemic, birding is not only a way to appreciate nature, but also a platform for discourse about societal issues.

Since the pandemic lockdown necessitated that everyone stay home, birding evolved into a welcome respite from the monotony of everyday life. For some, this diversion became a way to give back to the scientific community. Today, citizen scientists and professional researchers work together to compile valuable data about birds and their habits. This collaboration has fostered a trove of educational resources, allowing birdwatchers to monitor our shared environment, from deforestation to climate change.

Join the Bruce Museum in exploring the impacts, from a local to global perspective, that independent, backyard enthusiasts working with real-life scientists have made in the birding community and beyond. **Bruce Presents: Birding, From Backyard to Big Year** takes place on Tuesday, November 23, at 7pm via Zoom webinar. Bruce Museum Managing Director/COO and Bruce Presents Co-Producer Suzanne Lio will moderate a discussion on the most recent scientific developments, best birding practices, and more, with birdwatching experts and highly esteemed birders:

Frank Gallo is the Senior Naturalist at New Canaan Nature Center, a guide for Sunrise Birding, LLC, and is one of Connecticut's most well-known birders. He is a gifted environmental educator, forged from years working as a New Haven Park Ranger, past Director of Eco-Travel & Field Studies at New Canaan Nature Center, and more recently, as the Senior Naturalist and Director of Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center at Milford Point. He is a former President of New Haven Bird Club, a master bird-bander, and Co-Secretary of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut. He is the author of *Birding in Connecticut*, a definitive site guide, COA's newly updated *Birding through the Seasons*, as well as two children's nature books, *Bird Calls*, and *Night Sounds*, and is a published freelance photographer and lecturer whose work has been featured in the *Scientific American*.



Ryan MacLean is the Bird Education Specialist of the Greenwich Audubon Center, currently the oldest nature education center of the National Audubon Society. At the center's 300-acre preserve Ryan conducts a wide array of bird related programs such as bird tours, bird identification workshops, school programs, summer camps and virtual webinars. Ryan also oversees many of the center's public opportunities for the public to engage in Community Science bird research such as the Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch, Project FeederWatch and Summer + Christmas Bird Counts. For more information on the Greenwich Audubon Center and its birding offerings visit greenwich.audubon.org.



Tom Robben started bird-study on his 7th birthday when his parents gave him binoculars and a 1947 edition of Peterson, and then Joe Hickey's great bird book a few years later. He has been obsessed with the oceans and their birds for many decades, including his favorites: skuas, Buller's Shearwaters and Sabine's Gulls. Tom created and ran the first SBC "summer bird counts" with Guy Tudor, starting in 1972 at Captree, Long Island. Tom is currently the President of the COA Connecticut Ornithological Association and also chairs their Research Committee.



Gina Beebe Nichol is the founder of Sunrise Birding LLC, a company offering personalized, authentic birding and wildlife tours. A naturalist and birder for more than thirty years, Gina received her B.S. in Environmental Education from Cornell University and her M.A. in Educational Technology from Fairfield University. She began her career as a Naturalist at the Rye Nature Center in Rye, New York and has held positions as Program Director for the Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut, as well as with the National Audubon Society. Her varied interests and love of the natural world have taken her to all seven continents and Gina has led wildlife tours to North and South America, Antarctica, China, Kenya and countless countries in between.



Bruce Museum COO/ Managing Director and Bruce Presents Co-producer **Suzanne Lio** decided to explore the topic of birding after her own experiences while staying home this year. "During the pandemic, I took up birding as a way to get outside and appreciate nature while stuck at home" she said. "I've learned how to identify all the local birds that visit my backyard, and it is fascinating and therapeutic to watch them as they go about their day."

The event is the 22nd installment of the Bruce Museum's acclaimed speaker series, ***Bruce Presents: Thought Leaders in the Fields of Art and Science***. Support for Bruce Presents is generously provided by Berkley One, a Berkley Company.

To join this online, live-streamed Zoom webinar, visit <http://www.brucemuseum.org> and click on the Reservations button to sign up. Tickets are free for Bruce Museum Members; \$20 for non-members.



BRUCE MUSEUM
One Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376 • www.brucemuseum.org

Press Release

#####

About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution highlighting art and science. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Bruce has been voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Bruce Museum is a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

Media Contact for this event:

Suzanne Lio, Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer, 203-869-0376 or slio@brucemuseum.org.