

Title: The importance of birds around the world and human dependence on them

Presenter: Jamey Emmert, Wildlife Communications Specialist , ODNR Division of Wildlife

Abstract:

Just 100 years ago we were on the verge of losing dozens of North American bird species which are now common today including great egrets, great blue herons, and wood ducks. It was already far too late for some species such as the Great auk, Carolina parakeet, and the passenger pigeon. Market hunting for meat as well as for birds' plumes, a fashionable statement in well-to-do women's hats of the time, were the leading cause of species decline. The beginning of the proverb, "It Takes a Village," rings true; when a collection of like-minded people works together for a common cause, they can change the world. Conservationists boldly stood up to this chaos and reversed the trend literally saving the lives of billions of birds. Thus, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) was born. This federal law was enacted in 1916 protecting migratory birds between the U.S. and Great Britain (acting on behalf of Canada). Many amendments have been made along the way to continue protecting species around the globe. Thankfully, we don't have to live on this globe without the company of feathered fauna, but consider this: where would we be without them?

Biography:

Jamey Emmert, a native of southeast Ohio, serves as a Wildlife Communications Specialist for the ODNR Division of Wildlife's northeast Ohio district and is stationed in Akron. After graduating from Hocking College with an Associate Degree in Wildlife Management, she began her career with the Division in 2003. Jamey's responsibilities vary greatly and include serving as a liaison between the Division and the news media, conducting informational workshops and programs connecting Ohioans with the outdoors, creating educational exhibits at various events, and partnering with educators who want to provide educational experiences to others regarding conservation of our natural resources.

In her spare time, Jamey enjoys traveling, deer hunting, fishing for anything with gills, searching fields for ancient artifacts, gardening, and birding all in between coats of pink nail polish. You'll likely find her outdoors and at any given moment next to her husband, Greg, and canine companion, Sophie.