

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Dinosaurs, great size and shape,
Roamed the world, to dominate!

Lived on Earth, no people found,
Millions of years, remained around!

First appeared, during Triassic,
Reached Cretaceous, after Jurassic!

Run, Walked, rumbled, swayed,
Squeaked, croaked, bellowed and bayed!

Good sight, sense of smell,
Hearing well, really swell!

The earth was lush, teeming with life,
All seemed peaceful, doomed to strife!

Volcanic impacts, alien stone,
Threatened to destroy, ancestral home!

Paleontologists, fossil and bone,
Signs of being, frozen in stone!

Climate and disease, threatened survival,
Placed the big hurt on their revival!

Some say, became extinct,
Decomposed, not to stink!

Others say, they flew away,
Birds evolved, live another day!

Today

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Handbook of Bird Biology", there are approximately 9605 species of birds in the world today. They essentially can be found in every conceivable ecological niche across the world from the South to North poles. Many species have become extinct over time and others are threatened today due to loss of habitat, pollution, climate change, over hunting and other factors. For example, the Ohio Environmental Council states that over 90% of natural wetland habitat in Ohio, where various species of birds once thrived, has disappeared over time due to agricultural use and other land developments. Approximately 33,000 acres of valuable coastal wetlands in Ohio still support at least 250 species of nesting birds.

Tomorrow

What can we do to ensure the survival of this sacred heritage and rich diversity of avian fauna. It's time to get involved. Stand up and be counted. Come and join us at the Black River Audubon Society. We are a conservation minded organization emphasizing birds and other forms of plants and animals. We have many ongoing projects that I'm sure would be of interest to many of you. We have

programs that benefit everyone through education, field trips, stewardship and restoration of ecosystems.
Come and have fun and make new friends!

References: Handbook of Bird Biology, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Ohio Environmental Council Web Site-<http://www.theoec.org/WaterRestoration.htm>