



*Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day May 11, 2024!*



Environment for the Americas 2024 Theme for WMBD



## Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS April Program

**Special 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**Featuring Akron's Own Jen Brumfield**  
***The Presence (and Presents) of Birds***  
**Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:00 p.m.**  
**Goodyear Heights Lodge – East Room**  
**Goodyear Heights Metro Park**  
**2077 Newton Street**  
**Akron OH 44305**



“The Presence (and Presents) of Birds” is Jen’s whirlwind lifetime passion and career dedicated to birds, birding and conservation illustrated through photos, stories and life lessons.

In this program, JB reviews a lifetime of chasing wings and eagerly combines her passions for extreme birding, field studies, outdoor education and detailed scientific illustration into a truly “wild” career. Her illustrations have appeared widely in birding journals and magazines, and she has written and illustrated six field guides in The Fascinated Naturalist Guides series. Her over-the-top enthusiasm and passion for studying the natural world is rivaled only by her knack for portraying it through her artwork and interpreting it to others through natural history education programs as a Naturalist for 18 years with Cleveland Metroparks. Just this year JB said farewell to the education world in trade for the next step in her career - the Natural

Resources department - working in the field doing land management. Currently residing in Cleveland, Ohio, she spreads the joy of urban and local patch birding, and runs thrilling boat trips on the open waters of Lake Erie seeking rarities left and right. A veteran of big days and big years, JB has participated in the World Series of Birding, the Great Texas Birding Classic, the Montezuma Muckrace, and four excruciatingly intense and record-setting big years in her home county. JB is a rarity-finding machine and is forever obsessed with gulls, jaegers and lake-watching. Admiration and respect for birds runs deep through her blood. She is honored and humbled to take a stand for bird conservation and education with her every last breath.

Join us as JB returns to Greater Akron Audubon to help us celebrate the chapter's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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## **American Bird Conservancy**

### **Free Webinar**

### **They're Back! How to Help Migratory Birds this Spring**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**



Spring has arrived in North America, and with it, billions of migratory birds that will breed and nest in the region. Unfortunately, these birds face a gauntlet of threats as they make their journey north, and many perish along the way. Their chicks are also at risk — less than half will make it to the end of summer.

Many of the dangers that migratory birds face are human-caused, such as glass windows, bright lights at night, free-roaming cats, reduced insect populations due to pesticides, and more. But there's good news: You can help!

Join American Bird Conservancy to learn how you can support migratory birds this season and help their offspring beat the odds!

You'll hear from ABC experts, including: Kaitlyn Parkins, Glass Collisions Program Coordinator; David Wiedenfeld, Senior Conservation Scientist; Joanna Eckles, Bird City Network Coordinator. If you can't make the webinar live, RSVP now and you'll be sent a recording to enjoy when the time is right for you: [They're Back! How to Help Migratory Birds this Spring \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org).

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### **Earth Fest at Adell Durbin Park**

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**3300 Darrow Rd., Stow, OH 44224**



Connect with nature just outside your door. This spring, the City of Stow Parks and Recreation Department and Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library have partnered to present outdoor programs for area residents.

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day at Adell Durbin Park! There will be fun for the whole family including activities for children and guided hikes at 10:30 and 11:30 AM to explore

signs of Spring and marvel at the beauty of nature. While at the event, pick up your passport from the City of Stow Urban Forestry tent and get it stamped at various booths in order to earn a free tree! Representatives from Greater Akron Audubon and several other organizations will be on hand, ready to share information and giveaways. FREE event for all ages, no registration needed.

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**Western Reserve Land Conservancy**

**Virtual Book Event**

**A World of Discovery: How Science and Heart  
Can Make You a More Ecological Gardener**

**With Author Nancy Lawson**

**Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**



The Land Conservancy is collaborating with the Cleveland Pollinator & Native Plant Symposium and Nature Spark, to bring you a virtual program with author Nancy Lawson. Nancy will present on her latest publication, *Wildscape: Trilling Chipmunks, Beckoning Blooms, Salty Butterflies, and other Sensory Wonders of Nature*. Much has been written about gardening for human senses, but how do plants and animals perceive the world around them? What do we miss when we landscape for human visual appeal but neglect the sensory experiences of our wild neighbors? Noise, light, and odor pollution can have many unintended consequences. Conventional gardening practices often interfere with animals' and plants' abilities to interact with their environment in ways we can scarcely imagine. Through science, heart, and our powers of observation, we can learn to mitigate these disruptions and create sensory refuges in an increasingly noisy world.

Register in advance for this program: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Warbler Warm Up**

**Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Liberty Park Nature Center**

**9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087**



Join a naturalist as warbler season and the Biggest Week in American Birding approach. To help prepare, the basics of warbler identification and other important tidbits about our feathered friends will be presented. There will be several specimens preserved by taxidermy to provide a bird's eye view of the many species that will be migrating through in the coming weeks. This program is designed for all levels of birding experience.

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**Summit Metro Parks Virtual Program**

**Biggest Week Birds**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**





Join SMP naturalists online to discover the amazing avian journeys that are occurring now, right in our own back yards! Meet some migratory bird species, talk hot spots and share the love for these special groups of songbirds. To join: [www.Zoom.us/Join](https://www.zoom.us/join) and key in the Meeting ID number: [485 730 2450](https://www.zoom.us/j/4857302450)



**Summit Metro Parks Virtual Program**  
**Back Yards Gone Wild: Hummingbirds**  
**Sunday, May 5, 2024**  
**2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Liberty Park Nature Center**  
**9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087**



Join a naturalist for this bimonthly series on welcoming nature into our outdoor spaces. This month, learn about fascinating hummingbirds, the flying gems of the garden, and how to attract them to your own back yard. After a presentation, take a short stroll to search for hummingbirds and the flowers they like best.



**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Wandering for Warblers Day Trip**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

**6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Meet the bus at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm**

**1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44333**



Join park naturalists for an all-day exploration of the Warbler Capital of the World during the Biggest Week in American Birding. The tour bus will depart F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm at 6 a.m. for the famed Magee Marsh and other birding hotspots, returning at approximately 6 p.m. Be prepared for extensive walking on boardwalks and trails. Dress for variable weather conditions. Pack lunch, beverages, snacks, binoculars and a camera.

Cost: \$75 per person. Participants must be 18 years or older. To register: [330TIX](#) |

[Wandering for Warblers Day Trip](#)

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**Ohio State University Extension**

**Ohio Woodland Stewards Program**

**Friday's Escape to the Forest**

**Virtual Program**

***If it Bugs Bugs, it Bugs Birds!***

**Friday, May 10, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**



**CFAES** OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Ohio Woodlands Stewards Program  
*Friday's*  
**ESCAPE TO THE FOREST**  
Webinar Series

*Take a break to relax and visit the woods with us...*

We share information on Ohio's woodland, wildlife, invasive species, managements recommendations, and more!

[woodlandstewards.osu.edu/resources](http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/resources)

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

*Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am - 12 pm*  
**If it Bugs Bugs, it Bugs Birds!**

Pesticides can be a valuable tool in managing threats to forests, farms, and gardens. However, many chemicals in common use have unintended consequences on non-target wildlife, especially birds. Join Hardy Kern, with the American Bird Conservancy and Matt Shumar, with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative to learn more about the impacts of pest management on birds, how to better understand the chemicals you may be using, and ways to make your spaces bird-friendly while still reducing threats from pests.

Register at: [go.osu.edu/bugsbirds](http://go.osu.edu/bugsbirds)

Pesticides can be a valuable tool in managing threats to forests, farms, and gardens. However, many chemicals in common use have unintended consequences on non-target wildlife, especially birds. Join Hardy Kern, with the American Bird Conservancy and Matt Shumar, with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative to learn more about the impacts of pest management on birds, how to better understand the chemicals you may be using, and ways to make your spaces bird-friendly while still reducing threats from pests. Please register in advance: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



**2024 Birds in the Hills Festival**  
**May 17 – 19, 2024**  
**Meigs County, Ohio**  
**Wisteria Event Site and Campground**  
**39825 State Route 684, Pomeroy, OH 45769**





[Note: FYI Only. GAAS has no affiliation with Appalachian Understories or this festival]

Whether you are a seasoned birder enthusiast or are just beginning your life long journey of birding, the *Birds in the Hills Festival* has something for everyone. The festival welcomes individuals of diverse ages and backgrounds, providing a chance to explore the biodiversity of the Appalachian region through interactive nature activities led by local guides and naturalists. In addition to a variety of birding excursions, the festival provides family-oriented programming, food, music and camping. Enjoy the rolling hills of Appalachia filled with wildflowers, medicinal forest species, and a variety of birds. This event welcomes birders of all levels of experience to come together and enhance their passion.

The *Birds in the Hills Festival* features a variety of habitats to explore, including reclaimed prairie, early successional forest, and mature hardwoods. This allows for a diverse and exciting array of bird species to be observed: Blackpoll Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Indigo Bunting, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Acadian Flycatcher, Black-billed Cuckoo, Ovenbird, and Wood Thrush.

This space is inclusive and encouraging for all! Grab your binoculars and prepare to immerse yourself in nature! A variety of ticket options are offered and tickets will also be available for purchase at the festival venue. For more information and registration details, see [Birds in the Hills | My Site \(appalachianunderstories.com\)](https://www.appalachianunderstories.com).

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## **Bird Walks**

**GAAS Bird Walks to Begin**

**Saturdays at Firestone**  
**April 27 through May 25, 2024**  
**7:30 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Tuscarawas Meadows Area**  
**Firestone Metro Park**  
**2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319**



Think in terms of a gathering of friends who enjoy birding together. There are always several very good birders present and we all help one another find and identify species. Meet at the bridge nearest the Tuscarawas Meadows parking lot. The first leg of the walk is always along the feeder race and we walk slowly, so it is easy for late arrivals to find us. Birders can arrive and leave at any time, and the trails are well groomed (but can be wet and muddy) and flat. Bring binoculars and birding geniality. The third Saturday walk on May 11<sup>th</sup> will be held in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day – that recognizes the northward journey of migratory species from their southerly wintering grounds to their northerly nesting sites. For more information, see [Saturdays at Firestone - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). For questions about the walk, contact Ned DeLamatre at [ndelamatre@gmail.com](mailto:ndelamatre@gmail.com).

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**GAAS Bird Walk**  
**Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**Clinton Towpath**  
**Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trailhead**  
**2749 North St., Clinton, OH, 44216**



Join experienced birder Kathy Mock as she leads the walk heading south on the Towpath in hopes of finding birds seen during this week in previous years such as Sandhill Crane, Solitary Sandpiper, Black Vulture, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, both kinglets, Swamp Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, and maybe a few vireos and warblers.

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**GAAS Partners with Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens**

**Morning Bird Walks with Akron Audubon**

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens**

**714 North Portage Path, Akron, OH 44303**



Last fall, volunteers from our chapter were invited to join staff at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens for bird walks as part of their adult education programming. We've been invited back to help continue the walks this year with six scheduled walks between April 28th and November 8th. Ned DeLamatre will lead this first walk, and staff and volunteers from Stan Hywet will be on hand to assist. Registration is free for members of Stan Hywet and there is a fee of \$10 for non-members. After the walk, participants may take self-guided tours of the Manor House, Gate Lodge, and Corbin Conservatory, as well as the gardens. Please register at least one week in advance: [Main Store - Stan Hywet](#)

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**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Spring Bird Stroll**

**Saturday, May 04, 2024**

**8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Tallmadge Meadows Area**

**Munroe Falls Metro Park**

**1088 North Ave., Tallmadge, OH 44278**



For some folks, spring means birds. We are those folks! Join a naturalist on a guided hike to see which bird species are passing through during the migration. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you've got 'em!

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**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Peak Migration Bird Walk**

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

**7:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Valley View Area**

**Cascade Valley Metro Park**

**1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313**



Happy Biggest Week in American Birding! Hike the 1.6-mile Celebration Trail with a naturalist to spot neotropical migrants on their journeys north. Along the way, discover how bird lovers can better support our avian friends at home. Please bring binoculars and a bird guide.

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### **Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Smartphone Birding**

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Pioneer Area**

**Goodyear Metro Park**

**550 Frazier Ave., Akron, OH 44305**



So often our phones take us away from nature, but that doesn't have to be the case! Come for a high-tech bird walk on the 1.4-mile Alder Trail and explore how you can enhance your birding experience with technology.

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**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Bird Watching: Migration Mania**

**Saturday, May 11, 2024**

**7:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Oak Hill Trailhead**

**3901 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula 44264**



Accompany Volunteer Naturalist Dwight Chasar on International Migratory Bird Day. Looking for spring migrants, observe songbirds in hardwood forests and old fields as their migration comes to a frenzied peak. Bring binoculars.

This 2.5-mile walk is on flat, unpaved trails.

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**News You Can Use**

**The Migratory Birds of the Americas Act  
Passes the U.S. House of Representatives**





*We have lost 3 out of every 5 Rufous Hummingbirds since 1970, reflecting an urgent need for on-the-ground conservation of both their winter habitat in Mexico and summer habitat in the United States.*

From National Audubon Website

On Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the bipartisan *Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act* (H.R. 4389/S. 4022), nicknamed Neotrops, passed the U.S. House of Representatives! This critical legislation is intended to protect habitat for birds throughout their breeding, migration, and wintering habitats in North, Central, and South America. The bill reauthorizes the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), a successful federal grants program funding migratory bird research and habitat restoration throughout the Western Hemisphere.

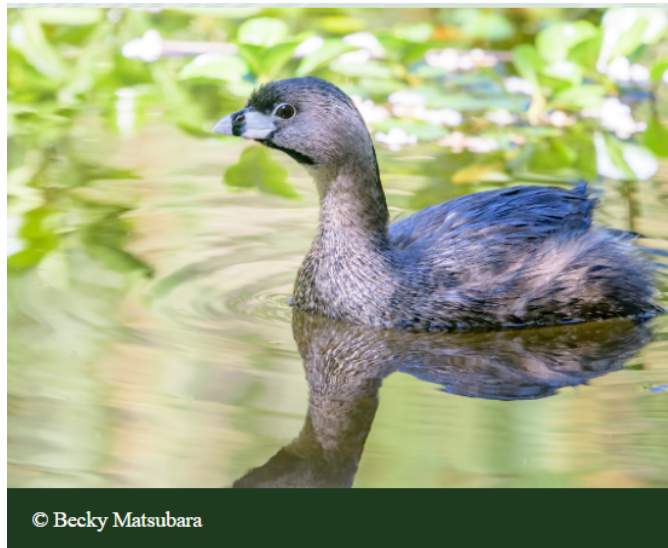
The staff at National Audubon wish to thank everyone who advocated for the passage of this bill. Our collective support is what helped push this piece of legislation over the finish line and they're grateful for our advocacy. Rep. Joyce (R-OH, 14<sup>th</sup> District) co-sponsored this legislation.

The next step is to thank your U.S. Representative and encourage your senators to support the bill—and the folks at National Audubon have combined those two efforts into one action alert: [AUDUBON ALERT: Help Migratory Birds Across the Western Hemisphere | National Audubon Society](#)

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**BirdNote Episode from April 12, 2024**

**Spark Bird: John Kessler and the Music of Birds**



John Kessler served as BirdNote's senior producer for over 18 years. But before BirdNote existed, he was recording the sounds of Seattle for public radio station KPLU, now called KNKX. After capturing many of Seattle's well-known spots on tape, he broadened his scope by connecting with local birders to find the best places to hear birds around town. Shortly after, BirdNote's founder, Chris Petersen, sought out John's musical ear to help create a sound-rich show highlighting the joy of birds. Read the transcript or listen to the episode that details Kessler's growing awareness of bird sounds: [Spark Bird: John Kessler and the Music of Birds | BirdNote](#)

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### **It's Time to Get Our Hummingbird Feeders Out!**

It seems that the northward journey of the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** is a couple of weeks ahead of schedule this year. Their first appearance in northeast Ohio usually happens at the end of April, but several sightings have already occurred as of the week of April 15<sup>th</sup> this year (see Hummingbird Central 2024 Migration map: [2024 hummingbird spring migration map, 2024 hummingbird sightings, hummingbird tracker, migration patterns, migration times \(hummingbirdcentral.com\)](#)). It is usually recommended that we get our feeders out a week ahead of their expected arrival but those in the know are getting them out now.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird at feeder

Although bird conservationist Laura Erickson has retired, her website contains a wealth of information. See her recommendations about hummingbird feeding (and another link to Sheri Williamson's recommendations) here: [Way to Help 52 | Laura Erickson's For the Birds](#).



### **Case Study: American Redstart Migration**

**American Redstarts Can Speed Up Their Migration, But There's a Cost**



American Redstart by Doug Gochfeld / Macaulay Library.

From the Spring 2024 issue of *Living Bird* magazine, by science writer Rebecca Heisman.

Research has uncovered a possible link between when American Redstarts leave for spring migration, how fast they travel, and how likely they are to survive. Read about this interesting new finding here: [American Redstarts Can Speed Up Their Migration, but There's a Cost | All About Birds](#)



***Greater Akron Audubon Society – Celebrating 90 Years in April 2024!***



As always, please visit our website regularly: <https://www.akronaudubon.org> If you've missed or deleted these ***For the Birds*** emails, they are also posted in the **Archives** under the **News** tab on the Home Page. For more northeast Ohio bird-related programs, events (including some bird walks), please visit the ***Northeast Ohio Regional Bird Calendar***, hosted by Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio: [CALENDAR \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org).

Note: A chronologic listing of past GAAS program pages with speaker bios and topics can be found by going to the GAAS website *Meeting Archives* page: [Meeting Archives - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). If a virtual meeting was recorded and is available for watching, there will be a <Recording> button that can be selected to link to the recording on YouTube.

Please direct questions or comments to [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

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**Greater Akron Audubon Society**

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