



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS January (Virtual) Program
Grassland Bird Ecology and Management in Ohio
Joseph Lautenbach, Tuesday, January 24, 2023 7:00 p.m.



Birds that are dependent on grassland systems are extremely varied and include raptors, shorebirds, and many passerines. Unfortunately, many grassland birds have experienced extensive declines throughout North America. Many grassland bird species share general characteristics in their ecology. General trends in grassland bird ecology will be broadly discussed, with a focus on Ohio. Management and conservation of grassland birds will also be addressed. Register in advance for this meeting: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to join the meeting.

Note: Our January and February programs will be held as virtual presentations using Zoom, with pre-registration required. **Live programs will resume in March at Goodyear Heights Metro Park, West Room.**

**Western Reserve Land Conservancy Presents (Virtually)
Judy Semroc, Tuesday, January 24, 2023 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section has a dark blue background with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy logo (a yellow sunburst) at the top. Below the logo, the text reads "Western Reserve Land Conservancy" and "land • people • community". The main title "Zoom into Nature: Winter in Ohio" is written in a white, elegant script font. At the bottom of this section, the date and time "Tuesday, January 24 6:30 PM - 8 PM ET" are displayed in white. The right section features two photographs: the top one shows a tree with intricate ice formations against a clear blue sky, and the bottom one shows a coyote standing in a snowy field with tall grasses.

Judy will discuss features of nature in winter including icicles and the unusual ice and snow formations that are part of our northeast Ohio winters. In addition, winter activity and “hibernation” of all types of plants, animals and insects will be presented. Lastly, she’ll share advice on how to attract and help birds survive the winter months by providing food and water resources. Register in advance: [Zoom into Nature: Winter in Ohio – Western Reserve Land Conservancy \(wrlandconservancy.org\)](https://www.wrlandconservancy.org)

Western Reserve Land Conservancy Winter Virtual Symposium

Inviting Biodiversity into Our Gardens

Five-part Virtual Symposium
Session 2 - Wednesday, January 25
1 - 3 PM ET



Session 2: Creating Green Corridors: Strategies for Cities and Homeowners

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

This first hour will feature Mary Ellen Lemay, Landowner Engagement Director, Aspetuck Land Trust, Connecticut presenting, ***Pollinator Pathways and the Green Corridor: Improving Biodiversity on Protected Lands in Our Own Yards!***

The 2:00 p.m. hour will feature Evan Abramson, Founder and Principal of *Landscape Interactions* presenting ***Designing Landscapes + Corridors to Support Biodiversity and Climate Resilience***

This five-part series was designed to educate and inspire homeowners, horticulturists, botanists, naturalists, landscape architects and designers, educators, conservationists and anyone eager to learn about creating pollinator and wildlife habitats using native plants and trees to promote biodiversity, species richness and ecological resilience. Please note that these sessions of ***Inviting Biodiversity into Our Gardens*** are very popular and registrants have exceeded the audience capacity in the past. Recordings are at the discretion of each presenter and may not always be available. Links to available recordings will be shared with those who register: [Inviting Biodiversity into Our Gardens – Session 2 – Western Reserve Land Conservancy \(wrlandconservancy.org\)](https://www.wrlandconservancy.org)

Session 3: Speakers TBA, Wednesday, February 1, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**What's in Your Garden Today? Discovering the Insect Life in Your Garden
Presented by Ann Cicarella, Wednesday, January 25, 2023 7:00 p.m.**

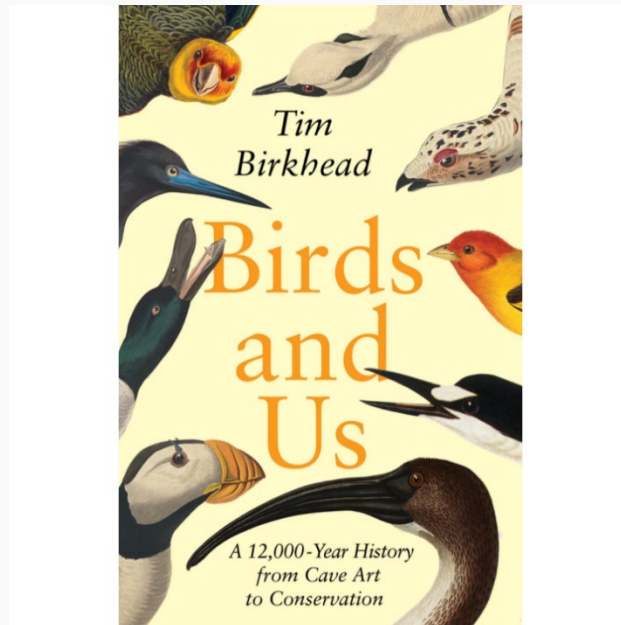
Ann Cicarella has been designing landscapes in the Cleveland area for thirty years. In 2015, she founded the Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium to bring national and regional speakers to our area to educate and inspire ways we can design, build and maintain biodiverse landscapes and habitats for pollinators and wildlife. Also in 2015, she began transitioning her gardens to include more native plants and was astounded at the diversity of insect life that began to appear. The results of embracing a new gardening paradigm were curious, enchanting, and beautiful. As a result she began to photograph, document and research all the species of wildlife she discovered in the gardens. She discovered an infinite number of life cycles taking place season after season and a cadence of life that drives the rhythm of the seasons. To register: [2023 Northeast Ohio Pollinators Society – Winter Series | Northeast Ohio Pollinator Society \(osu.edu\)](#)

**On Deck in this Series: Homegrown Restoration:
Creating Pollinator Plots, Fields, and Strips on Private Land
Presented by Abby-Gayle Prieur, Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:00 p.m.**

When landowners move from pollinator gardening to what might be called “habitat restoration,” new challenges related to establishment and maintenance of pollinator habitat arise. Hand tools, elbow grease, potted wildflowers, and gardening budgets may no longer be practical for converting plots of land to high-quality habitat.

Abby will review common strategies for establishing pollinator habitat on project areas that are too big to prepare and tend by hand. She will also offer tips for keeping habitat in tip-top shape after it is established. Lastly, she will review federal programs that can be utilized to help fund home-grown habitat restoration projects. Abby works for Pheasants Forever as a Farm Bill Biologist serving eastern Ohio. She collaborates closely with landowners who wish to improve their land for wildlife. Her specialty is providing guidance on restoring habitat that supports pollinating insects. [2023 Northeast Ohio Pollinators Society – Winter Series | Northeast Ohio Pollinator Society \(osu.edu\)](#)

Birds and Us: A 12,000-Year History from Cave Art to Conservation
Thursday, January 26, 2023 1:00 p.m.



Join ***Environment for the Americas*** book club session featuring award-winning author and ornithologist Tim Birkhead and his book [Birds and Us](#). This book chronicles a sweeping history of the long and close relationship between birds and humans. Those who have read this book have praised it and recommended it be on any birder's bookshelf!

Register in advance here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Wild Ohio Weekend
Saturday and Sunday, February 4 – 5, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ohio History Center
800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211



A weekend full of natural history programming: learn more about the plants and animals that call Ohio their home! Wild Ohio Weekend, 2023 was created in partnership with Global Water Dances Columbus. The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, among other organizations, will have display tables with information and there will be an Owls of Ohio Display. Free admission for Ohio History Connection members. Admission for others: Free to \$16, depending on age. See the list of activities and programs and admission fees: [Wild Ohio Weekend, 2023 - Ohio History Connection](#)

Bird Walks

Winter Bird Walk

Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Summit Lake Nature Center

411 Ira Ave., Akron, OH 44301

Come join a naturalist for a walk on the Towpath Trail around Summit Lake. Make sure to dress warmly and bring binoculars while learning how birds adapt to winter.

CVNP Saturday Adventure: Bird Watching for Beginners

Saturday, February 11, 2023 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Red Lock Trailhead
1175 Highland Road, Sagamore Hills 44067

Saturday Adventure – a time to get outside! Stretch your legs and mind through experiencing something new in your park. Curious about bird watching? Come along on a leisurely walk, in search of birds. Learn how to use binoculars, field guides, and bird apps. Binoculars provided or bring your own.



Bird Nerds: Woodpeckers
Saturday, February 11, 2023 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center
1828 Smith Road, Akron, OH 44313

Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are invited to join Summit Metro Parks naturalists in this series as they explore a new group of birds each month of the year. They'll discuss adaptations, behavior, identification and more. After a presentation, they'll hit the trail to practice what was shared. Binoculars are recommended.

Superb Owl Sunday
Sunday, February 12, 2023 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Liberty Park Nature Center
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087

Stop by before the big game to learn about these amazing birds and even meet a live owl ambassador! Enjoy hands-on activities in the nature center, make a craft, take a self-guided owl hike and even dissect a real owl pellet! "Whooo" is interested?

News You Can Use

2023 Audubon Photography Awards Open for Entries until March 1, 2023



White-tailed Kites. Photo: Jack Zhi/Audubon Photography Awards/2022 Grand Prize Winner

National Audubon Society's annual photography and video contest is now accepting entries through March 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to photographers and videographers in eight categories: the Grand Prize, Professional Prize, Amateur Prize, Youth Prize, Plants for Birds Prize, Fisher Prize, Female Bird Prize, and Video Prize. The contest is open to all legal residents of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, and Canada (excluding Quebec), who are 13 years of age or older as of the date of the submission. Audubon encourages ethical bird photography and videography. Photos that do not adhere to Audubon's Guide to Ethical Bird Photography and Videography will be disqualified.

Entry fees are \$15 per image or video. No payment is required for submissions to the

Youth Division or to the Plants for Birds or Video Divisions for entrants who are 13 to 17 years of age. Learn more here: [2023 Audubon Photography Awards Open for Entries | Audubon](#)

A Duck Hunter's Tips for Quickly Identifying Waterfowl on the Wing



American Wigeons. Photo: Andrew Hosford/Audubon Photography Awards

Identifying birds in flight is a useful skill for any birder. Winter is the time of year when waterfowl usually choose their mates and therefore, they're in full breeding plumage. Whether it's color and color pattern, size, shape, wingbeat, sound or any combination of these, visual and auditory cues help hunters and birders alike definitively identify birds and it's a skill that needs to be learned and honed, the achievement of which is personally rewarding. Duck hunter Holly A. Heyser penned this informative article for **Audubon Magazine** in November 2022: [A Duck Hunter's Tips for Quickly Identifying Waterfowl on the Wing | Audubon](#).

January News from Preserve the Valley



PRESERVE THE VALLEY.COM
CITIZEN ACTION GROUP

In its first newsletter of 2023, the citizen action group sees signs of hope for this year and beyond and details what's ahead for the group. Of particular note: a call has been issued for advocacy action by Akron residents to show support for a green space next to Haley's Run Trail in Ward 10. The Akron City Council Planning Committee will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.** on whether to approve a salvage yard expansion there. Let your Akron City councilmember know that you oppose such an expansion. Read the newsletter and get connected: [Signs of Hope \(wix.com\)](https://www.wix.com/signsofhope)

Why Harassing Canada Geese Doesn't Work

New University of Illinois research shows standard goose harassment efforts aren't effective, especially in winter when birds should be most susceptible to scare tactics. It turns out that harassed geese returned to an area about twice as fast as when they left on their own. And harassment generally does not change goose behavior. The bottom line? Geese are smart and highly adaptable, with excellent memories and an ability to discern life-endangering threats from annoyances. Excerpts from a story by Lauren Quinn on news from the Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, as reported in a BirdwatchingDaily.com story on Nov. 29, 2022 [Why harassing Canada Geese doesn't work - BirdWatching \(birdwatchingdaily.com\)](https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/why-harassing-canada-geese-doesnt-work)

Conservation Milestone Reached by Western Reserve Land Conservancy!



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community



News from WRLC came early on in the new year about the many accomplishments of the group: “With the conservation of 2,715 acres at 36 properties in 2022, the Land Conservancy has now conserved 70,350 acres at 883 [public and private] properties in 28 counties, land where ancient forests, wildlife habitat, headwater streams and rivers, scenic hiking trails and more will be protected, now and for future generations. It’s the result of our staff, trustees, donors, partners, and landowners working together to create a shared vision of thriving, healthy communities nourished by vibrant natural lands, working family farms, and healthy cities.”

But wait! There’s more! WRLC also “created and expanded a robust environmental education program, planted and distributed hundreds of trees in and around Cleveland, made a lasting commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice [DEIJ-Report_Final_lowres.pdf \(wrlandconservancy.org\)](#), and so much more.”

**From the [Autumn 2022](#) issue of *Living Bird* magazine:
Gallery: Embroidered Birds for The Eye and Ear**



Clockwise from top left: Three-wattled Bellbird, Sandhill Crane, Nocturnal Curassow, Musician Wren. Embroidery by Ana Luiza Catalano.

Brazilian sound recordist Ana Luiza Catalano has archived nearly 300 audio recordings of birds in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library, thanks to training she received from taking the Cornell Lab's Sound Recording Workshop twice. Catalano earned her PhD researching birdsong, and she conducts acoustic monitoring of bird populations in the Amazonian forest. During the pandemic she took up needlework, and decided to incorporate the beauty of what she hears by ear into the art she creates for the eye—including a snippet of spectrogram on her embroidered birds. Follow her art on Instagram at [Ana Luiza Catalano \(@bordandoespecies\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](#)

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 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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