



## Upcoming Programs and Events

*Listed below is a sampling of the upcoming quality programs and events that may be of interest to birders and conservation-minded chapter members.*

### GAAS January (Virtual) Program Tuesday, January 25, 2021 7:00 p.m.



We welcome Dr. Laura Kearns, wildlife Biologist with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, as she presents ***Tracking Trumpeter Swans***. Ohio is currently participating in a multi-state project evaluating the movement ecology of the Interior Population of Trumpeter Swans and what factors determine migratory behaviors of the swans throughout the region. This talk will provide an update on the current status of Ohio's trumpeter swan population and a preliminary report of 20 swans tracked in Ohio compared to other trumpeter swans in the Great Lakes region.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkd-6qqjwoE9LxD8hLYsbFf5uWpGDoexXp>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to join the meeting. Hint: when registering, you may want to note the date and time of the confirmation email so you'll be able to find it on the evening of the program.

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# Inviting Biodiversity into our Gardens

*A free virtual symposium*



***Inviting Biodiversity into Our Gardens*** will 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.

The free webinar series is a collaborative effort made possible by Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Nature Spark and Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium. Four remaining upcoming sessions are intended to guide you from start to finish in creating gardens that benefit pollinators and other wildlife. Explore the importance of restoring our increasingly fragmented and disappearing native habitats beginning in our own backyards—whether small or large.

Each webinar will feature national and regional experts who will guide you on a path towards building and maintaining a healthy, native garden. Sessions are offered every other Wednesday, starting on January 12 through March 9, 2022 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm ET. Each will be recorded and available to those who register for 30 days following the live event. Links will be sent to registrants.


Advanced registration is required and a link for the virtual program will be sent upon registration. Session 2 will address our devotion to lawns and the importance of rethinking these landscapes. Our presenters will address the long-term environmental effects of maintaining lawns and offer sustainable alternatives. **From Lawn to Garden: Successfully Transforming Your Landscape for Increased Biodiversity on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** Advanced registration is required and a link for the virtual program will be sent upon registration. For details and to register: [Pollinator Symposium – Session 2 – Western Reserve Land Conservancy \(wrlandconservancy.org\)](https://www.wrlandconservancy.org/pollinator-symposium-session-2)

Session 1 took place on January 12<sup>th</sup> and can be viewed here for 30 days:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1uGobHgUaw>


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


**TENDING NATURE**  
Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in  
Fostering Biodiversity




**Mary Gardiner**  
The Ohio State  
University




**Doug Tallamy**  
The University of  
Delaware




**Lisa Olsen**  
Wild Ones



**Bryan Danforth**  
Cornell University



**Heather Holm**  
Author and  
Biologist



**Debra Knapke**  
Author and Garden  
Designer

This 6-session webinar series meets virtually at **10:00 a.m.** for approximately one hour each Friday through February 11<sup>th</sup>. Register once to attend any or all live sessions or check back at the website (<https://u.osu.edu/certify/tending-nature/>) to view recordings of the webinars. Audio recordings and audio transcripts as well as closed captioning transcripts are also available after each presentation at [Recordings | Tending Nature \(osu.edu\)](#).

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**An Introduction to Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Monday, January 31, 2022 2:00 p.m. EST**

Join Jerry Cole, a biologist with [The Institute for Bird Populations](#) (IBP) to learn the basics of ARUs and AI, and how IBP scientists are using them to study bird populations. There will be a question-and-answer session at the end of the presentation. This webinar will use Zoom Meeting as a platform. Pre-registration is required: [Signup Form \(constantcontactpages.com\)](#)

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**Webinar: Bird Brother – A Falconer’s Journey and the Healing Power of  
Wildlife with Rodney Stotts**  
**Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Join Cornell Lab as they welcome Rodney Stotts, one of America’s few Black master falconers, to celebrate the release of his first book, *Bird Brother*. The book revolves around pursuing dreams against all odds, and the importance of second chances. Listen as Rodney shares his story as a Black child facing dangerous threats to transforming his life through the healing power of nature. Rodney reminds us that no matter how much heartbreak we have endured, we still have the capacity to give back to our communities and follow our wildest dreams. This program is free but registration is required: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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**Virtual Program: Birding by Ear**  
**Friday, February 4, 2022 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Join a naturalist with Summit Metro Parks to take your birding skills to another level by birding by ear. Learn what to listen for as well as techniques to improve your skills. The goal of the evening will be to identify at least 10 species by ear. To join: <https://zoom.us/join> and key in Zoom meeting ID: 832 2726 6465

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**Where:** Ohio History Center, 800 E. 17th Ave. (Ext. 111), Columbus, OH 43211 [Open in Google Maps](#) Note: Masks are required of everyone while indoors at the Ohio History Center to help limit the spread of the more infectious variants of COVID-19.

**Cost:** Ohio History Connection member or Child (3 & under): Free  
Adult: \$13; Senior (60+): \$11; Youth (4–12): \$7; College Students (with school ID): \$11

**What:** Exhibits, Auditorium programs, Film screenings, Information Tables from many organizations, including the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative, Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Ohio Geological Survey, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and many others.

For more information: [Wild Ohio Weekend | Ohio History Connection](#)

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### **Bird Walks**

Join Summit Metro Parks naturalists, dressed for the weather and with binoculars and a bird guide (if you have one) at one or both of these upcoming bird walks.

**Monday, January 31, 2022 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**At Valley View area of Cascade Valley Metro Park  
1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313**

**Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**On the Towpath Trail at Summit Lake Nature Center  
411 Ira Ave., Akron, OH 44301**

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## Other News You Can Use

### Audubon Photography Awards



We are now in the midst of the entry period for Audubon’s annual awards. Submissions are open January 12, 2022 – March 9, 2022 at 12 p.m. (noon) Eastern Daylight Time (EST).

This year there are eight divisions, including those for videos, female bird photos and youth. For official rules, FAQs, and information on the judges, prizes and more, or to enter, see [Audubon Photography Awards | Audubon](#)

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### Birding Festivals and Events

As we begin planning for 2022, consider attending an upcoming bird festival or event. A fun way to enjoy bird watching is by going to festivals—they’re organized to get you to great birding spots at a favorable time of year, and they’re an enjoyable way to meet people. Experts and locals help you see more birds, and you’ll meet other visitors who share your passion. Note that some festivals are now virtual only and some offer a virtual option in addition to the live event. The Cornell Lab keeps a calendar, searchable by location or by date at [Birding Festivals and Events | All About Birds All About Birds.](#)

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## House Finch or Purple Finch?

Free Resource



From The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "Finches are some of our favorite common feeder visitors, but they can also make for very tricky IDs! In particular, the House Finch and the Purple Finch, [and in the western U.S., Cassin's Finch] are difficult to differentiate. Adult males of all three species sport red plumage in varying shades and intensity, while females and immature males are similarly brown and streaky. Even so, there are tricks you can use to tell these finches apart." This downloadable guide offers six pages of information and tips, range maps, color photos for comparison and a helpful quiz at the end!

[Tricky Finches\\_CLOeBird.pdf \(hubspotusercontent20.net\)](#)



### **An Update on the Merriman Valley Draft Plan and the Status of Theiss Woods Parcel**

The Merriman Valley draft plan, which did NOT include Theiss Woods, has been posted: [Merriman Valley Schumacher Master Plan : City of Akron \(akronohio.gov\)](#) and [Merriman Valley - Schumacher Area Master Plan | City of Cuyahoga Falls \(cityofcf.com\)](#) It's important to note that the development nodes, (property ripe for development on Portage Trail) are in/above the watershed of the Cuyahoga River. That is not good – and moreover, there is no connectivity to anything for the existing residents on that road: no sidewalks, no connection to trails or parks. For a more thorough analysis of the Planning Process and the Draft Plan thus far by Preserve the Valley, please refer to [MASTER PLAN | Preserve the Valley](#). There is a public comment period so let's keep making our voices heard.

City of Cuyahoga Falls: [www.cityofcf.com/merriman-valley-schumacher-area-master-plan](http://www.cityofcf.com/merriman-valley-schumacher-area-master-plan)  
City of Akron: [www.akronohio.gov/cms/site/0e9b61c524339d78/index.html](http://www.akronohio.gov/cms/site/0e9b61c524339d78/index.html)

As for the fate of the **Theiss Woods parcel**, the decision has NOT been made and at this time **one person, Mayor Horrigan**, will decide whether it will be conserved (with the help of Western Reserve Land Conservancy) or developed. *Please* continue to send him your concerns and tell him that you want **Conservation** for the largest remaining greenspace in Akron. For talking points, and how best to reach Mayor Horrigan, please visit: [Theiss Woods | Preserve the Valley.](#)

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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 and events, please visit the **Northeast Ohio Bird Calendar**, hosted by Kirtland Bird Club: [CALENDAR \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](#)

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

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