



May our passion for birds enhance our connections with nature throughout 2024!

Upcoming Programs and Events

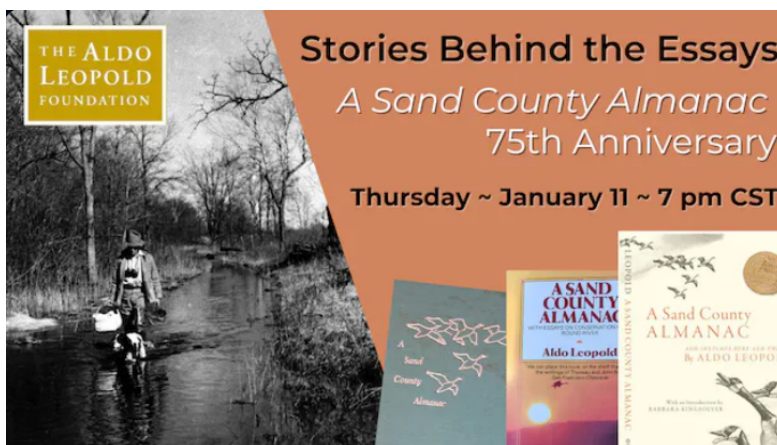
The Aldo Leopold Foundation Kicks off a Yearlong Celebration

Stories Behind the Essays:

"A Sand County Almanac" 75th Anniversary

Dr. Stan Temple

Thursday, January 11, 2024 8:00 p.m.



In honor of Aldo Leopold's birthday and the 75th anniversary of the first publishing release of *A Sand County Almanac*, Dr. Stan Temple, a Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation, will share stories behind the

essays and will delve into why the book's message still resonates with us today. Register for this free, virtual event here: <https://www.crowdcast.io/c/asca75>. A replay of the event will be available to registrants immediately after the live program.

Summit Metro Parks Program

Owls & Howls

Friday, January 12, 2024 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

U.A. Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve

4160 Ira Road, Akron, OH 44333



Join a naturalist from Summit Metro Parks and Dr. Lara Rokentenetz from The University of Akron's Field Station after dark to search for some of Bath Nature Preserve's most elusive residents. After a presentation in the Regal Beagle shelter, take a quiet hike to call the owls, with hopes that they'll respond with hoots and howls. Bring your patience, curiosity and a small flashlight if you wish. Enter off Ira Road and follow the road until it ends at the field station.

Summit Metro Parks Program

Bird Nerds: Diversity

Saturday, January 13, 2024 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



New birders and experts alike are welcome to join the Bird Nerds series for a fun, approachable discussion on a new bird topic each month. January's program will explore all the different types of birds a bird can be with a presentation on avian diversity.

The International Owl Center
Virtual Owl Expert Speaker Series:
Is Spotted Owl Conservation a Problem
or a Symptom of a Larger Issue?

Dr. Rocky Gutierrez

Sunday, January 14, 2024 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



With the recent news coverage about the proposed shooting of Barred Owls to try to save Spotted Owls, this presentation will be a great place to get more information and ask questions of someone who studied Spotted Owls for decades. Dr. Gutierrez is now retired, but endured death threats from both the logging industry and environmentalists during the height of the Spotted Owl/logger controversy in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Register in advance for this Zoom program: [Spotted Owls with Rocky Gutierrez – Zoom, Sun Jan 14, 2024 \(tickettailor.com\)](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/owls/2024)

The Mindful Birding Network

Seasonal (Virtual) Gathering

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:30 p.m.



Share. Collaborate. Inspire.

To Join Zoom Gathering:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81083696126?
pwd=dVRnRnk4NGJtOFYySWYxT3YzT2VpZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81083696126?pwd=dVRnRnk4NGJtOFYySWYxT3YzT2VpZz09)

Meeting ID: [810 8369 6126](#) Passcode: **900334**

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**Medina County Park District**

**Birds & Beverages**

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Oenslager Nature Center**

**6100 Ridge Rd., Sharon Township**

**(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)**



Cozy up in the bird viewing area with a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and join a naturalist for this indoor

opportunity to observe various bird species! Ages 10 to adult. No registration is required.

Free



**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Homeschoolers: Birds of Prey**

**Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**or 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Liberty Park Nature Center**

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



For homeschoolers ages 7 to 12: Explore the lives of owls, hawks, eagles and falcons to discover what makes these powerful birds unique. Advance registration required and begins at 10:00 a.m. on 1/10/24; call [330-865-8065](tel:330-865-8065)

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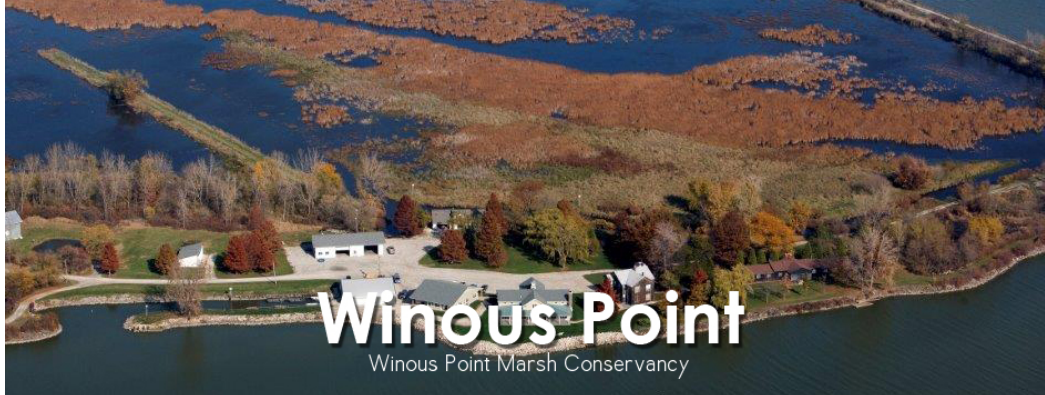
**Summit Metro Parks**  
**Back Yards Gone Wild: Bird Feeder Workshop**  
**Sunday, January 21, 2024 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Liberty Park Nature Center**  
**9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087**



Join a naturalist for this bimonthly series on welcoming nature into our outdoor spaces. Learn how to feed winter birds and thwart those sneaky squirrels! After a short presentation of tips and tricks, make a wooden hanging tray feeder to take home (one kit per family). All are welcome to attend the presentation but registration is required if you wish to build the tray feeder. Advance registration begins on 1/18/24 by calling [330-865-8065](tel:330-865-8065).

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**GAAS January Program (Virtual)**  
**The Winous Point Marsh Conservancy:**  
**Partnering to Further Wetland Conservation**  
**in Ohio from 1856 to Present**  
**Brendan Shirkey**  
**Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:00 p.m.**



The Winous Point Marsh Conservancy was established in 1999 and shares its facilities with the Winous Point Shooting Club, which is the oldest continuously operating duck hunting club in the United States. Early members of the shooting club had strong conservation interests and pioneered early wetland management and research techniques. This talk will show how the scientific interest of the hunting club eventually led to the formation of a 501(c)3 organization that focuses on research, education, and conservation to support the protection of Great Lakes coastal wetlands. Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApdeiorjspGtJaDrmmCE0r6sV\\_SKg8cnMa](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApdeiorjspGtJaDrmmCE0r6sV_SKg8cnMa)

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Bird Walks

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Saturday Adventure: Bird Watching for Beginners

Saturday, January 13, 2024 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Kendall Lake Shelter and Trailhead

1000 Truxell Road, Peninsula, OH 44264



Curious about bird watching? Come along on a leisurely walk with a Ranger to search for birds. Learn how to use binoculars, field guides and bird apps. Binoculars provided or bring your own.

Summit Metro Parks

Winter Bird Walk

Sunday, January 21, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Munroe Falls Metro Park Tallmadge Meadows Area

1088 North Ave, Tallmadge, OH 44278



Venture through the field and forest to catch glimpses of resident and migratory winter birds and learn how you can support our feathered friends this season. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.

Medina County Park District

Winter Bird Walk

Saturday, January 13, 2024 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Oenslager Nature Center

6100 Ridge Rd., Sharon Township

(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)



Bundle up, bring a pair of binoculars, and join a naturalist for this walk to search for and observe various bird species, because a winter walk is always enhanced by the sights and sounds of local winter birds! Ages 10 to adult. No registration is required. Free.

News You Can Use

Watch: From National Audubon Society



In 2023, the National Audubon Society worked tirelessly to "bend the bird curve" and continued its tradition of advocating for and securing the space, clean air, and clean water that birds and people need to live and thrive. They've created this video to take a look back at 2023: [8 Wins for Birds in 2023 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WinsforBirds2023)

Get Ready for Climate Watch Winter 2024

January 15 – February 15, 2024

If you can identify the five easily recognized bird species below by sight and/or sound, you can participate in National Audubon's community science effort known as Climate Watch. In this long-term study, birders and community scientists across the country fan out twice a year (in winter and summer) to count five key species in a region. The goal of the project is to see how our common species are adjusting to global warming.

American Goldfinch



Photo: Michele Black/Great Backward Bird Count

Eastern Towhee



Photo: Luke Thomson/Great Backward Bird Count

Eastern Bluebird



Photo: Suiata Roy/Aurubon Photography Awards

Red-breasted Nuthatch



Photo: Tamima Hant/Audubon Photography Awards

White-breasted Nuthatch



Photo: Incelun Anderson/Great Backward Bird Count

Volunteers (singly or in small groups) count the presence and number of these five species for five minutes at each of 12 locations (that are more than 200 meters apart) in a 10 km x 10 km area beginning in the morning and ending before noon. The presence of bird feeders is noted and results can be submitted in one of three ways. Contact our regional coordinator, Mary Anne Romito, with Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, for more information on how to participate and/or to be assigned a square:

maryanneromito@gmail.com Phone: [216-741-2352](tel:216-741-2352); Cell: [216-990-2632](tel:216-990-2632). Western

Cuyahoga's official day for Climate Watch is Saturday, January 20th but the counts can be done anytime during the timeframe shown above. For more information, see [Climate Watch | Audubon](#). If you've participated in the past, it may also be a good idea to let Mary Anne know whether or not you'll be participating again.

News from Whitefish Point Bird Observatory



The Shack at WPBO as it stood prior to the storm (from WPBO.org website)

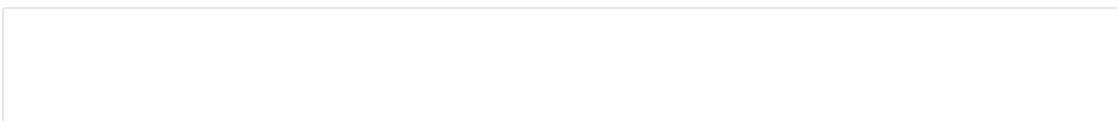
Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, located in a natural migration flyway on Lake Superior, has been recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area through which thousands of birds pass each spring and fall. This hot spot has recorded over 340 bird species and is home to rare breeding birds and research efforts.

In late November, a storm washed away the waterbird shack that had been built in 1999 and served as a refuge to numerous counters as they conducted research for more than 20 years. Along with the missing shack, visitors to WPBO may find the beach landscape unrecognizable following the storm, which eroded a substantial portion of the shoreline; Lake Superior has essentially overtaken much of the Point. “Shocking” and “surreal” have been used to describe the feeling of seeing so much change in its geography in so little time.

These changes will undoubtedly affect the birds and other wildlife that use the shoreline at WPBO and the research being conducted there with Michigan Audubon. They ask all to please stay tuned for more updates in the coming months.

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## **New Study Shows: Songbirds Flex Singing Muscles Every Day to Stay in Shape**



A short segment on NPR's *All Things Considered* reveals the findings of a Danish researcher, Iris Adam, on Zebra Finches: males must sing every day to keep their vocal muscles in shape. Females prefer the songs of males that did their daily vocal workout. Have a listen to this 3-minute piece with NPR's Ari Daniel: [Songbirds flex singing muscles every day to stay in shape, shows new study : NPR](#) [Could this finding hold true for House Wrens and Red-eyed Vireos in North America?]

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### **Attention Travelers:**

**Become an Ambassador for Environment for the Americas**



As an ambassador, you can connect your love for travel with conservation by helping distribute binoculars and educational materials to partners of EFTA across the Americas. Help make sure these supplies safely reach their destination by personally delivering them. Ready to learn more? Contact EFTA at

[Info@environmentamericas.org](mailto:Info@environmentamericas.org)

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### **Stone Laboratory Offers Scholarships for Science Classes on Lake Erie Island Campus This Summer**

Stone Laboratory is The Ohio State University's island campus on Lake Erie and is the research, education, and outreach facility of Ohio Sea Grant and part of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) School of Environment and



Natural Resources. For more than 100 years, Stone Laboratory has been an invaluable asset in freshwater biology research, science education and outreach.

High school and college students can apply now for scholarship support to attend classes at Stone Laboratory, Stone Lab offers more than 20 college credit courses and workshops each summer on topics ranging from algae identification to ecology. To apply, students must fill out the online scholarship application [go.osu.edu/scholarship\\_app\\_24](https://go.osu.edu/scholarship_app_24). For a full list of scholarship requirements and deadlines, visit [go.osu.edu/aid](https://go.osu.edu/aid). Students can submit scholarship applications before they apply to Stone Lab courses. Stone Lab course applications will be available in early January.

The deadline for college students to apply for scholarships is February 15, 2024. Anyone taking a for-credit class (as well as certain workshops) is eligible to apply for a Stone Lab scholarship. Awards are based on financial need. For more information, see [Stone Laboratory Offers Scholarships for Science Classes on Lake Erie Island Campus This Summer | Ohio Sea Grant \(osu.edu\)](#)

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## The Vultures are Coming!



— Photo credits: Mike Gabelmann, Wikimedia Creative Commons.

A recent post by the Wilson Ornithological Society indicates that “Turkey Vultures seem to be a species well-suited to take advantage of a warmer and more populated world.” This post was contributed by David Jachowski, Meghan Keating, Dana Nelson, Chloe Horton, Brianna Pruitt, Stephen Harris, Mike Muthersbaugh, and Courtney Marneweck, authors of a recent paper in The Wilson Journal of Ornithology on vulture range expansion. The bottom line? “Turkey Vultures represent a refreshing case of not trying to recreate what once was for a few individuals or populations, but trying to figure out how these patrollers of the skies and cleaners of the land will shift their behaviors and ranges and form new relationships with many more people in the Americas over the coming decades.” Kathy Mock brought this post to our attention: [Guest Post: The Vultures Are Coming | Wilson Ornithological Society \(wilsonsociety.org\)](#)

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# Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

## Tree Sale Orders in Progress



Portage County Soil & Water Conservation District is once again offering a limited selection of native tree and shrub species. Supply is limited and they encourage ordering early. Orders may be mailed in or placed online and pick-ups are Wednesday – Friday, April 17th through 19th, 2024 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266 . Mail-in orders must be placed by January 31, 2024. All plants are bare root and are packed in moisturizing gel. Order forms for mail-in orders can be found here: [2024+Tree+sale+form+final.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](https://www.portageswcd.org/shop-online). All orders placed after February 1, 2024 must be made online using a credit card <https://www.portageswcd.org/shop-online>.

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### **Killer Kitties: Cats are Eating 2,000 Species, Including Hundreds that are at Risk**



Cats eat 981 species of bird, 463 reptiles and 431 mammals globally. Photograph: Vasiliy Vishnevskiy/Alamy

In a new research paper published in December 2023 in *Nature Communications* [Lepczyk, C.A., Fantle-Lepczyk, J.E., Dunham, K.D. et al. A global synthesis and assessment of free-ranging domestic cat diet. *Nat Commun* **14**, 7809 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-42766-6>] five co-authors developed the first

comprehensive global assessment of species consumed by cats in order to evaluate the potential threat of cats. The results were astounding: 2,084 species are eaten by cats, of which 347 (16.65%) are of conservation concern. Of the individual species depredated or scavenged by cats, birds comprised 47.07% (981 species), followed by reptiles (463 species, 22.22%), mammals (431 species, 20.68%), insects (119 species, 5.71%), and amphibians (57 species, 2.74%). “Free-ranging cats (i.e., owned or unowned cats with access to the outdoor environment) are amongst the most problematic invasive species in the world.” Phoebe Weston covered the news about the paper in theguardian.org’s Age of Extinction series: [Killer kitties: cats are eating 2,000 species, including hundreds that are at risk | Cats | The Guardian](#)

For another journalistic reaction to the paper, Sarah Kuta covered the news for *Smithsonian Magazine*’s *Smart News*. That article can be found here: [Cats Prey on More Than 2,000 Different Species | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine](#)



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 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)

**Follow us on Instagram:** @akronaudubon

**Find us on Facebook:** @greaterakronaudubon

recordingxtagendz

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