



## Upcoming Programs and Events

**January 26, 2021 7 p.m. GAAS Virtual Program: A New Primer on Backyard Bird Feeding**

**Speaker: John Barber**



How can we best feed birds in our yards? The accepted wisdom of many feeders brimming with commercially-grown seeds is increasingly seen as one of the lowest priorities for helping both nesting and migrant birds. Are we supporting birds that are relentless predators on open-cup nesting species? The answer lies in designing and planting a wide array of native trees, shrubs, and perennials to host the widest possible array of native insects, while avoiding the temptation to plant non-native and potentially invasive plants sometimes sold as "bird-friendly". Recent research suggests the highest probability of success for nesting Black-capped Chickadees results from yards planted with more than 70% native plants. We'll talk about turning yards of any size into truly bird-friendly habitats.

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsfuqurjsrH9L4O-Tf0IGwL-EbdPh1NXC>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

**Note:** GAAS is using this presentation as an introduction to our chapter's participation in the state chapters' unifying initiative *Native Plants for Birds*.

We'll need the help of all members to make this a success. Stay tuned!

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### Christmas Bird Count 2020

Preliminary CBC Message

The Christmas Bird Count for 2020 began auspiciously. The weather forecast for the count day had been for ~30 degrees and a 50% chance of drizzle. However, when the day began, the temp was already above freezing and the day turned into one which was very comfortable. All areas had count leaders and the count went well throughout the day.

The final count numbers are not yet complete, but should be within the next several days. At this point, the count appears to have gone well, with already above 30,000 birds counted and 57 species. There were good reports from all areas both in numbers of birds, species, and weather. An important thing to mention is that all areas stayed safe during their time out, using safe distancing and many using masks.

I am happy to report that all went quite well for a successful 81st GAAS Christmas Bird Count.

-Your humble Compiler, Mike Edgington

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## Worth a Look and Listen: BirdNote

Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, this free public media program connects the lives of birds with nature and inspires listeners to care about the environment we share. Audubon is a conservation partner, among others, in this three-fold programming format. *BirdNote's* daily radio show features two minutes of sounds and stories that give listeners a break from life's daily commotion.

*BirdNote Presents* and *Threatened* are longer podcasts that delve more deeply into the lives of birds and the challenges they face. Filled with quality sound recordings from the likes of Macaulay Library and photos contributed by hundreds of photographers, the BirdNote community has been recommended by The New Yorker and NPR as a podcast to listen to on your phone, tablet or computer. Take a look at <https://www.birdnote.org/about/birdnote-story>

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National Audubon Society's Webinar series, *I Saw a Bird* program will continue in 2021 on the last Wednesday of each month through June! Register for Episode 16 (January 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.): <http://ow.ly/8WCS30rp65i>

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## WINTER BIRD-WATCHING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND ON OHIO WILDLIFE AREAS



COLUMBUS, Ohio – Birds and bird watching opportunities flourish during the winter on Ohio Division of Wildlife properties. State wildlife areas feature large tracts of habitat managed for wildlife and are open year-round for people to enjoy wildlife.

In winter, wildlife areas host birds such as bald eagles, rough-legged hawks, saw-whet owls,

short-eared owls, and trumpeter swans. If you want to get a better view of these species, the Division of Wildlife has resources available to assist visitors to these areas, including free maps at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov). Also keep an eye out for visitors from northern latitudes such as common redpolls, evening grosbeaks, snowy owls, pine siskins, and red-breasted nuthatches.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife recommends two areas in Northeast Ohio where wintertime bird watchers may want to consider visiting. Be sure to share the experience and take someone bird watching with you while practicing social distancing. Please keep in mind that these areas also welcome hunters, and hunting season for white-tailed deer and other species is underway. Wearing blaze orange clothing as a safety precaution is recommended. Hunting season dates and other regulations are listed at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov).

## Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/killbuck-marsh-wildlife-area> ) (Holmes and Wayne counties) – Watch for bald eagles, sandhill cranes, and trumpeter swans. This 5,671-acre wildlife area extends north from Holmesville near Wooster. The area is in a shallow, U-shaped glacial outwash valley. More than half of the area consists of marsh and swamps, and it is Ohio’s largest remaining marshland complex outside of the Lake Erie region.

## Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/mosquito-creek-wildlife-area> ) (Trumbull County) – Watch for bald eagles, tundra swans, and waterfowl. This 9,021-acre wildlife area is north of Warren and to the west of Mosquito Creek Reservoir. Most of the area is extremely flat and poorly drained. Nearly half of the area consists of second growth hardwoods and the remainder of the habitat managed for nesting and migrant waterfowl. The major water areas include Mosquito Creek Reservoir, 830 acres of marsh, and two ponds.



Photo courtesy of Summit Metro Parks

One of our partner organizations, Summit Metro Parks, recognized one of our own, Bert Szabo, on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last month. Excerpt from *The Leader* on December 10, 2020:

“Summit Metro Parks observed Bert Szabo Day Dec. 4 in honor of the park district’s first interpretive naturalist. To help mark this annual occasion, Sand Run Parkway has been renamed “Bert Szabo Parkway” for December. Szabo is pictured above with a banner marking the occasion. The 34-year park district employee and volunteer celebrated his 100th birthday Dec. 4.”

See the full story: <https://www.akron.com/articles/summit-metro-parks-honors-first-naturalist/>

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## **GAAS WEB PAGE EVENTS UPDATES**

We regularly update our web page (<http://www.akronaudubon.org>) with new events and upcoming event details. Kindly stay in touch! Please direct questions or comments to [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

And

**Follow Us on Instagram! - Please see @akronaudubon**