



Upcoming Programs and Events

Welcome 2023!

Upcoming Programs and Events

International Owl Center Presents Virtually:

(With Thanks to the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation for sponsoring this series in part so it can remain free for everyone)

Snowy Owls: Thirty-one Years of Breeding Season Research in Barrow, Alaska

Presented by Denver Holt, Sunday, January 8, 2023 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



Denver Holt and colleagues have been studying the natural history of breeding Snowy Owls and their primary prey, the Brown Lemming, for thirty-one years. The breeding season is long, approximately 4 months, and even during "summer" the weather is a

challenge for researchers and the owls.

During this talk Denver will highlight some aspects of the owls' natural history such as the mating system, division of labor between male and female to raise a family, nest defense behavior, nestling growth and development, food habits, lemming population fluctuations, and more.

Denver will also discuss how Snowy Owls could make decisions to stay and breed or migrate through Barrow during early spring. He will also answer the following questions:

Why are Snowy Owls white?

Why have they evolved sexual color dimorphism?

What drives their migration?

What is an irruption?

Are their populations declining, stable, or, do we not know?

This presentation will be concurrently livestreamed on the International Owl Center's YouTube channel. Denver Holt's presentation **will only be available to view live** and will not be saved for later viewing.

[Get Registered – Snowy Owls: Thirty-one years of breeding season research from Barrow, Alaska, by Denver Holt – Zoom, Sun Jan 8, 2023 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \(tickettailor.com\)](#) Note the times are CST, one hour earlier than EST.



Session 1: Creating Resilient, Functional, and Beautiful Biodiverse Landscapes

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 Session is now closed. Register for a link to the video recording.

This first session will feature presentations from Jeff Lorenz, the founder of Refugia Design (Planting the New Paradigm), and Claudia West, principal at Phyto Studio (Building a Truly Biodiverse Pollinator Garden Through Science and Design). Jeff and his team specialize in transforming lawns into dynamic plant communities and Claudia will take you behind the scenes of the planning and construction of the Pollinator and Bird Garden at The Arboretum at Penn State—which took years of collaborative research.

This a free, five-part virtual symposium that will inspire homeowners, horticulturists, naturalists, educators, landscape designers, and others to learn more about the value of using native plants and trees to establish and maintain healthy habitats. The sessions were intended to guide you from start to finish in creating gardens that benefit pollinators and other wildlife. Join virtually to explore the importance of restoring our increasingly fragmented and disappearing native habitats, beginning in our own backyards—whether small or large. The symposium is organized by Ann Cicarella of the Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium, Judy Semroc of NatureSpark and Renee Boronka at Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Please note that all sessions of ***Inviting Biodiversity into Our Gardens*** will be recorded, and links will be shared with those who register: [Inviting Biodiversity into Our Gardens – Virtual Symposium – Session 1 – Western Reserve Land Conservancy \(wrlandconservancy.org\)](#)

2023 Northeast Ohio Pollinator Society Winter Series

Homegrown Conservation:

Stewarding Our Landscapes for Pollinators and Other Wildlife

Presented by Danae Wolfe, Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are creating existential threats to people and nature. But we can help. Join conservation educator Danae Wolfe to discover small steps we can all take in our own backyards and communities to steward our landscapes for nature and wildlife.

Danae is a writer, photographer, and educator focused on promoting appreciation and stewardship of backyard bugs and nature. Through her website, social media, children's books, public speaking, and column in ***The American Gardener*** magazine, she has reached global audiences with science-based education about the importance of gardening for wildlife. Register once for this five-part series here: [Webinar Registration -](#)

[Zoom](#)

**Friends of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Science Series
The Past, Present, and Future of Biological Diversity and the Environment
in Northeast Ohio**

**Presented by Dr. Bort Edwards, Assistant Curator of Environment, CMNH
Saturday, January 14, 2023 10:00 a.m. (Live and Virtual Program)**



As our environment becomes more volatile as a result of climate change, the northeast Midwest and Great Lakes regions are expected to face increasing pressure to support and sustain natural and human resources. Understanding how organisms are distributed in the present, and how they experienced and responded to change in the past, is vital to trying to anticipate how we can best prepare for this impending environmental crisis. In this talk, Dr. Bort Edwards, the Museum's Assistant Curator of Environment, will share some of what we know about the history of North American flora (plant life)—how it came to be distributed as it is, how understanding this information helps us plan for the future, some of the challenges this future will present to biodiversity and conservation, and how the Cleveland Museum of Natural History is positioned to help address these challenges.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required, whether you plan to attend the 10:00 a.m. talk in person or virtually. You will receive a Zoom link upon registration: [Friends of CMNH Lecture Registration \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com/registration/Friends-of-CMNH-Lecture-Registration)



Bird Nerds: Backyard Birds
Saturday, January 14, 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 in a series as Summit Metro Parks naturalists explore a new group of birds each month of the year. They'll discuss adaptations, behavior, identification and more. Then they'll hit the trail to practice what was shared. Binoculars are recommended.

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.**

Bird Walks

CVNP Saturday Adventure: Bird Watching for Beginners
Saturday, January 14, 2023 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Kendall Lake Shelter and Trailhead
1000 Truxell Road, Peninsula, OH 44264

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 as we search for birds. Learn how to use binoculars, field guides, and bird apps. Binoculars provided or bring your own.

News You Can Use

Thank You!



Freedom Trail

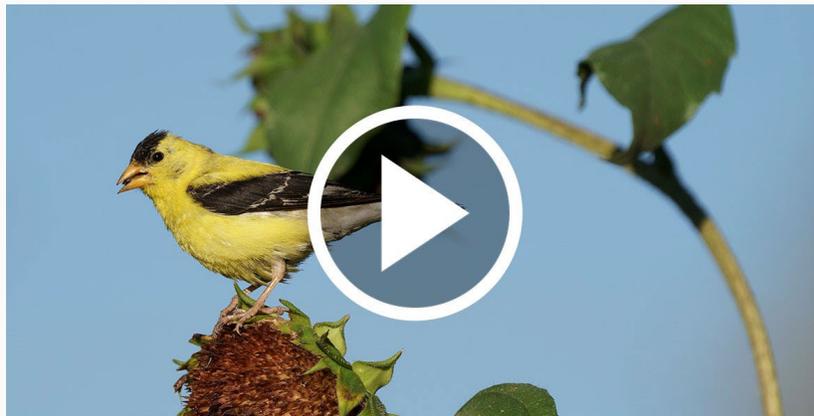
December 18th was a cold and overcast, dreary day to go out and count birds for the GAAS Christmas Bird Count. A warm, “Thank You!” to all who participated. By now, all field checklists should have been sent to Dan Toth, CBC Compiler. We’d welcome photos taken by 2022 CBC participants during their time afield that could be shared on the GAAS website. They can be sent (with photo credits and subjects/individuals identified) to info@akronaudubon.org. News about the count results will be posted here when the results have been finalized and accepted by the regional compiler. Stay tuned.

January 5th was National Bird Day!

The purpose of this day was to bring attention to the beauty and importance of native wild birds and to keep wild birds wild. In the spirit of the day, we can all celebrate birds every day by educating others about how to protect birds and the need to conserve them and the places they need. We can use any opportunity to talk about how birds are under threat from climate change, loss of habitat, deforestation and other factors.

In Case You Missed It...

National Audubon showcased 2022 with this video that featured its work on behalf of birds: ***Looking Back at a Year of Wins for Birds***



Looking for Ways to Lessen Your Impact on Earth in 2023?



Earth911 is a universal resource that helps you find your own shade of green. They educate and inform consumers, businesses and communities to inspire thought and facilitate earth-positive consumer decisions. Small changes by thousands of individuals will have a lasting, positive impact. More ideas make less waste! Learn more about Earth911 and their podcasts and sign up for weekly emails that include green living news, DIY tips, and info about recycling just about anything: [About Earth911 - Earth911](#).

Birds&Blooms®

You may know **Birds&Blooms** as a magazine to which you subscribe, but did you know that you can also sign up for a free newsletter that brings daily bird facts, photos, and interesting ID and questions [answered by Kimberly and Kenn Kaufman] to your Inbox? You can unsubscribe at any time or you can subscribe to other newsletters from eight other publications in their family line-up. [Sign Up For Our Free Newsletter - Birds and Blooms](#)



Photo: Mike Fernandez/Audubon

Volunteer for Climate Watch: It's All About the Birds!

A new community science program with National Audubon explores how North American birds are responding to climate change. Help build a better world for birds by joining Climate Watch to test and improve climate models.

National Audubon Society's **Climate Watch** ([Climate Watch | Audubon](#)) is an important community science program for tracking changes in bird populations as the climate, and habitats, change. Birders, new and seasoned, are needed to monitor bird species twice each year, once in winter and once in summer, so that species predictions modelled across North America can be refined as the climate changes. The resulting data will be used to refine existing models so that National Audubon advocates can track how our birds are responding locally and present the findings to make conservation cases with legislators. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) Climate Watch Coordinator Mary Anne Romito presented a program in November to that chapter's members, introducing the collaborative effort that extends to the southern border of Summit County. WCAS has selected **Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. until noon** as the winter 2023 survey period in which groups of 1 – 3 birders will select a square (10 km x 10 km), choose 12 survey locations within the square – based on knowledge of the area, and conduct 5-minute stationary point counts at each location. Five chosen target species include easily identifiable Eastern Bluebird, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch and Eastern Towhee, with focus on the White-breasted Nuthatch and American Goldfinch. Learn more about **Climate Watch** and the few easy steps to take to participate by watching a recording of the WCAS program presented by Mary Anne beginning at 18:25 on the video: [WCAS Member Meeting and Speaker November 2022: Volunteer for Climate Watch: It's All About Birds! - YouTube](#). Let's help Mary Anne cover the subject area within Greater Akron Audubon's chapter area! After viewing the video, start by reaching out to her at maryanneromito@wcaudubon.org or 216-990-2632 to select a

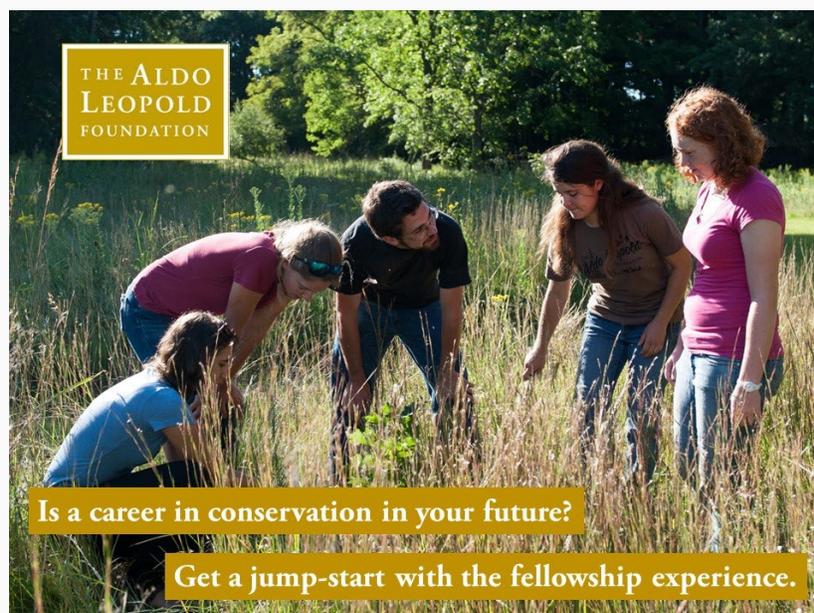
square.

CEO of National Audubon Pens Op-Ed Piece:

What birds tell us on climate can unite a polarized political system

Following the midterm elections, Audubon CEO Elizabeth Gray penned an op-ed about how the link between humans and nature can unite us across party lines to protect our planet from increasing climate threats. Given that more than 70 percent of Americans across party lines accept that global warming is happening and will harm future generations, Dr. Gray writes “The urgency for meaningful climate mobilization grows greater every day. Regardless of our personal politics, we all bear the burden of a changing climate. When we listen to what birds tell us, they lead us to solutions. We seek consensus in tangible, nature-based action because we know that we must.” Read her 11/18/22 contribution to **The Hill** here: [What birds tell us on climate can unite a polarized political system | The Hill](#)

Announcing 2023 Aldo Leopold Foundation Associate Fellowships! Today's Students are Tomorrow's Leaders



Spread the news near and far: The Aldo Leopold Foundation is now accepting applications for 2023 associate fellowships! These fellowships are part of the Aldo Leopold Foundation's [Future Leaders Program](#), an innovative fellowship structure designed to provide recent college graduates with the skills and experiences they need to kick-start their careers in conservation. The incoming cohort of fellows will have the opportunity to specialize within one of two program areas, [Education and Communication](#) or [Land Stewardship](#), depending on career aspirations. If the Future Leaders Program sounds like the perfect next step for you or someone you know, please share this with them today! Position descriptions and application instructions can be found [here](#). The deadline to apply is **11:59PM CST Wednesday, February 1st, 2023**. Contact Alanna Koshollek at alanna@aldoleopold.org with questions concerning the application using the subject line: 2023 Fellowship Application.

Join current [Aldo Leopold Foundation](#) staff and [Future Leaders Program](#) to learn more about the opportunity to gain experience and grow in seven core areas: conservation leadership, finance and fundraising, applied science and natural history, partnership building, strategic planning, communication, and land ethics. Join one of three information sessions to learn more about fellowship tracks, professional development opportunities, living arrangements, and much more. Come with questions, leave with answers! When? Friday, 1/13 at 1:00 p.m.; Tuesday, 1/17 at 11:00 a.m. or Thursday, 1/19 at 8:00 p.m. *Questions about registering? Reference the [Crowdcast Attendee Guide](#) or contact Kyra Lyons at kyra@aldoleopold.org (for assistance with Crowdcast).*

So What Happened to RAWA?

Recovering America's Wildlife Act had hopes of passing after it passed the House in June and had support in the Senate. But it wasn't to be after it fell out of discussions to include it with the Omnibus package at year's end. The reason? How to fund the measure. The January 2023 issue of *The Birding Community E-Bulletin* explains it best, in full, below:

“RECOVERING AMERICA’S WILDLIFE ACT: STARTING AGAIN

For about the last six months, we've tried to keep you abreast of the efforts to pass the important “Recovering America's Wildlife Act” - H.R. 2773 and S. 2372. This legislation

was seen as essential to providing support for animal and plant species already Endangered and could prevent more from reaching that precarious status. Over the months, we covered this progress, in our September issue: <https://conta.cc/3d3k0BI> and also November:

<https://conta.cc/3DFtXS>

The bill, intended to provide almost \$1.4 billion a year for broad wildlife conservation through the states, territories, and tribes, had passed the House of Representative in mid-June – with a vote of 231 to 190 – and had considerable support in the Senate. There were high hopes that the substance of the bill would be included in the \$1.7 trillion Omnibus package that ultimately passed last month.

It was not until the final hours of the complicated Omnibus negotiations with the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the White House that the bill's inclusion fell out due to disagreements on how, precisely, to pay for it.

One of the last plans to pay for the bill would have applied the so-called “wash sale rule” to digital assets - including cryptocurrency - but some Senators negotiating the complicated effort started insisting on different applications of the rule, proposing that certain assets be classified differently, and also arguing that specific categories should be exempt. In the last hours, the efforts unfortunately collapsed, and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act was left out of the Omnibus package.

Expansive wildlife conservation funding like this – basically through the states - has failed to gain sufficient political traction before, and past efforts for “Teaming With Wildlife,” with a tax/user-fee on outdoor gear, or the “Conservation and Reinvestment Act,” with potential reliance on offshore oil, were not convincing enough to win over a sufficient number of Congressional champions from both houses of Congress.

The good news this time around was that there was virtually no question over the *need* or the *institutional vehicles* (mainly states, territories, and tribes) to carry out these vital conservation tasks. The impressive work and almost-universal agreement through the latest campaign – e.g., with 1,800+ organizations and businesses engaged and supporting the efforts – was remarkable. So the work accomplished can still be the basis for new efforts with the next Congress. Indeed, supporters are in *no way* starting from zero.

At the same time, with inevitable renewed efforts, the issue of the *source of funding* – clear and uncomplicated – should be an essential part *at the very start* of any renewed campaign. The funding formula needs to be *simple and generally acceptable*, no easy task

these days!”



**Attention All Ohio Young Birders!
Scholarship Opportunity for ABA Camp Colorado July 2023
Estes Park, Colorado**

See details in this recent announcement: [Ohio Young Birder Camp opportunity - CAMP COLORADO 2023 - Apply Now \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

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)

Follow us on Instagram: @akronaudubon

Find us on Facebook: @greaterakronaudubon

Copyright © 2022 Greater Akron Audubon Society, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Greater Akron Audubon Society

PO Box 19190

Akron, OH 44319

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).
