



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS October Program

The Health Benefits of Mindful Birding

Dr. Joe Blanda

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 7:00 p.m.

The University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve

4160 Ira Rd, Akron, OH 44333

(The Field Station is located at the end of the drive.)



Photo: Akron Beacon Journal

Dr. Blanda will discuss the research behind the health benefits of nature and specifically, birding. He will share his personal story on how birding, and doing a “big year” helped him through adversity. He will share some thoughts on mindful birding, something you probably already do. He will also give some ideas on finding or creating an ideal naturescape to best experience the health benefits of nature. Nature can help us heal, which will encourage reciprocity so we can do more to help nature heal.

Please note: Beginning in November, our programs will move to virtual presentations for the winter months of November, January and February with no December program scheduled. The Christmas Bird Count will be Sunday, December 17, 2023.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) Webinar
Rare Bird Alert: Conserving Habitat for Displaced Water Birds
Wednesday, October 25, 2023 4:00 p.m.



American Flamingos in the Midwest. A Northern Gannet in California. A Roseate Spoonbill in Wisconsin. Unusual water bird observations have been in the news recently, generating a lot of excitement in the birding community, but also concerns about habitat loss and the effect of extreme weather events on wild birds.

During storms, birds need habitat and safe spots to ride out the bad weather, as well as stopover sites for resting and refueling during migration. The quality and availability of those habitats can make the difference in the survival of individual birds.

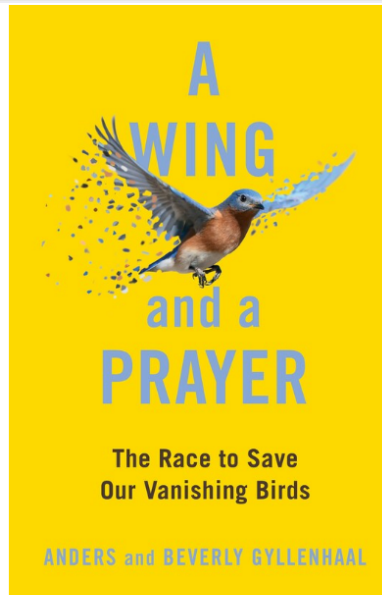
In this free webinar, three ABC experts will explore these events and the implications of their unexpected arrivals. Hear how ABC and its partners are working to ensure that birds always have a safe place to land, with a special focus on the Gulf Coast, one of the most important stopover areas, and the conservation of seabird habitat in a changing climate. If you can't make the webinar live, register and ABC will send you a recording to enjoy when the time is right for you: [Rare Bird Alert: Conserving Habitat for Displaced Water Birds \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org/rare-bird-alert-conserving-habitat-for-displaced-water-birds)

Environment for the Americas

Bird Book Club (Virtual)

A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds

Thursday, October 26, 2023 8:00 p.m.



(Simon & Schuster)

Authors Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal will join the discussion of their book as they transport you to the frontlines of the fight to rescue endangered species and discuss the exciting world of bird conservation. The retired couple tour the country in their airstream trailer to report on the state of bird conservation and hope that their efforts will act as a wake-up call to the public to care about what is happening and understand the urgency of need to take action. Register in advance to attend: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

GAAS Fundraiser: Wild Bird Seed Sale

Order Deadline

Friday, October 27, 2023

(Seed Pick-up Saturday, November 4, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Copley Feed & Supply Co.

1468 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Copley, OH 44321



Our chapter's annual (and only) fundraiser, the Wild Bird Seed Sale, is now underway.

Pre-paid orders should be received by **Friday, October 27th** and **seed pick-up is Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** Additional order forms will be available at our October program meeting or they can be found on the GAAS website: [Greater Akron Audubon Society annual wild bird seed sale](#). All profits benefit the chapter's conservation and educational outreach efforts.

Please consider donating a bag of Black Oil Sunflower seed to the UA Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve if you don't feed the birds at your current residence (marked as such on the order form) and we'll deliver it. Many thanks to Scoutmaster Mike Fasig and other troop leaders and the scouts of Troop #382 who will again be helping to load the seed and to Chrissy, Mark and Nancy Roesner at Copley Feed for their continued support of our chapter.

The chapter also needs a Bird Seed Sale Coordinator. If you'd be interested in heading this effort in the future, please get in touch at [330-645-0953](tel:330-645-0953) or info@akronaudubon.org.

FYI: From Save Ohio Parks

Rally for State Parks, Climate and Democracy

Friday, October 27, 2023 at 12 Noon

Ohio Statehouse West Plaza

Read more & register: bit.ly/rally10-27



Save Ohio Parks

No fracking on public lands

Save Ohio Parks invites everyone to join a rally at the Ohio Statehouse at noon on Friday, October 27th to let our state legislators (and the commission that will decide the status of fracking in our state parks and wildlife areas) know that there is a strong contingent that wants to see our public lands protected. This event will be the last chance to show support in a unified public forum before the upcoming November election. Among the speakers will be our October program speaker, Dr. Joe Blanda. Ohio's Oil and Gas Land Management Commission will meet soon to decide whether to approve or deny nominations to frack Salt Fork State Park, Wolf Run State Park, Valley Run Wildlife Area, and Zepernick Wildlife Area. Learn more about *Save Ohio Parks* and link to registration and more information about the rally, including possible carpool options: [Save Ohio Parks – No fracking on public lands](#).

Make a Difference Day

Save Ohio's Native Bees

(Virtual Presentation)

Saturday, October 28, 2023

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.



Fall is a great time to make a difference for native bees and other wee beings! *Save Ohio Bees* and University of Cincinnati Horticulture Club are presenting an hour-long Zoom presentation featuring speaker and **Save Ohio Bees** founder Tracie Teuscher. Discover native bees & bats, enjoy music, art, special guests, and a free gift for the first 25 RSVPs. Get pollinator-friendly gardening tips and create Bumble Bee art, etc. Registration ends on Friday, October 27th and the \$5.00 registration fee helps restore habitat and helps creates seed grants. Learn more and RSVP here: [Save Ohio Bees - Make a Difference Day Virtual](#)



Medina County Park District Program
Sponsored by Friends of Medina County Parks
Mysterious World of Owls
Sunday, October 29, 2023 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Buffalo Creek Retreat
8708 Hubbard Valley Rd., Seville, OH 44273



Come discover the amazing adaptations of these nocturnal birds of prey and see live owls up close! The Medina Raptor Center will offer a presentation of the unique features and abilities of these beautiful birds. The Medina Raptor Center can always use assistance in the form of monetary or supply donations. Please consider bringing a donation to the program. The center's most-used supply items include paper towels, Kleenex, Dawn dish soap, bleach, Ziplock baggies, bird seed, suet, peanut butter, and garbage bags. All ages are welcome. No registration is required for this free program.

Summit Metro Parks Program

Kinderealm: Raptors

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Children ages 3 to 6 years old and their adult companions will discover which hawks and other birds of prey soar in Summit County. A craft and a short walk are included. Please make other arrangements for younger children who are unable to remain in infant seats or strollers. This program is also offered one week later on **Wednesday, November 8, 2023 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.** at **Summit Lake Nature Center, 411 Ira Ave., Akron, OH 44301** and again on **November 15, 2023 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.** at **Liberty Park Nature Center, 9999 Liberty Rd, Twinsburg, OH 44087.** *Advance Registration is required and begins on 10/25 for any of these programs (call [330-865-8065](tel:330-865-8065)).*

Summit Metro Parks Program

Owls & Howls

Wednesday, November 1, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Wood Hollow Metro Park

2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson, OH 44236



Join a naturalist after dark to search for some of the park's most elusive residents. After a presentation in the shelter, there'll be a quiet hike to call these creatures with hopes they will respond with hoots and howls. Bring your patience, curiosity and a small flashlight if you wish. This program is also good for Fall Hiking Spree credit.

Orion Magazine & National Audubon Society Present

“Spark Birds,” A Virtual Program

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 1:00 p.m.



Join Orion Magazine and the National Audubon Society on November 8th to celebrate Orion's latest anthology, *Spark Birds*. The essays and poems collected here feature owls, cranes, thrushes, finches, penguins, petrels and buzzards—and the people who love them, including work by Brian Doyle, John Freeman, Elizabeth Kolbert, J. Drew Lanham,

Mary Oliver, Emily Raboteau, Sandra Steingraber, Terry Tempest Williams, and many more. The book is co-edited and introduced by Jonathan Franzen and gathers forty years of Orion's best stories, essays, and poems about birds.

This special launch event features authors Elizabeth Kolbert and Emily Raboteau in conversation with Audubon's Vice President of Content, Jennifer Bogo, about their contributions to the anthology, the importance of bird conservation, and their own spark birds. To learn more and to register, see [Orion Magazine & National Audubon Society Present "Spark Birds" | National Audubon Society](#)

Summit Metro Parks Program
Self-guided Hike Featuring Winter Birds
Thursday, November 2 – Thursday, November 9, 2023
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Seneca Trail
1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Dark-eyed Junco Photo: Jocelyn Anderson/Audubon Photography Awards

Discover what Ohio birds are up to when winter sets in! This self-guided hike will be on display along Seneca Trail through November 9. This activity counts toward Fall Hiking Spree.

Summit Metro Parks Program
Bird Nerds: Game Birds
Saturday, November 04, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm
1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313**



Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are invited to join a naturalist at Summit Metro Parks as they explore a new group of birds each month of 2023. Adaptations, behavior, identification and more will be discussed. This will be an all-indoors presentation.



Bird Walks

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Saturday, November 4, 2023 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
NPS Headquarters
15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, OH 44141**

Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk along the flat, unpaved Buckeye Trail near Jaite looking for fall migrants and unusual northern visitors.



News You Can Use

**Help Keep Pressure on Elected Officials
and Building Management to Prevent Bird Strikes!
Sign Community Petition Below!**



Field Museum Photograph

As a follow-up to the recent mass bird casualties as a result of collisions between birds and glass at McCormick Place in Chicago, many groups have been trying to educate the public and bring attention to the issue. Bird Friendly Chicago: Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, Chicago Ornithological Society, and Chicago Audubon Society have created a community petition that would require exhibitors to agree to these conditions of turning off lights and closing the curtains at night in the glass structure because doing so is a responsibility that the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) cannot control on their own. This petition will be presented to MPEA at their next meeting on **Tuesday October 24th**, if possible. Copies will also be delivered to the Mayor and Governor. Please sign and share this petition: [McCormick Place: Keep the Lights Out | Audubon Community Petitions](#). A short social media YouTube video by Badgerland Birding can be viewed here, although, to be fair, some of the discussion may contain misleading comments that may be disputed by the building managers: [A Chicago Building Killed Over 1,000 Birds in One Morning: Here's How You Can Help - YouTube](#)

Audubon magazine reporter Lauren Leffer wrote an article (October 6, 2023) that examined the circumstances that led to the unusually heavy migration event that, combined with weather and buildings, created the tragic losses. [More Than 1,000 Birds Collided With a Single Chicago Building in One Night | Audubon](#)

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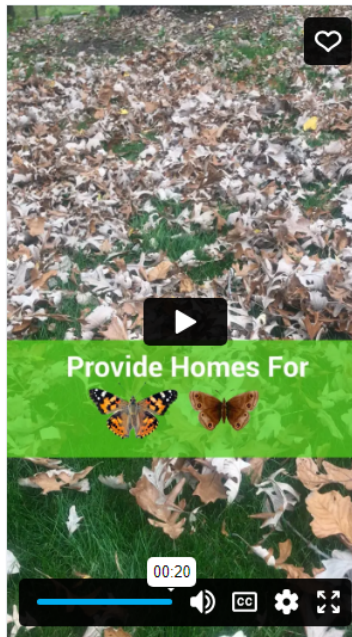
**Timely Advice: Leave the Leaves!**



Help spread the word that leaving our fallen leaves to decompose and to help insects complete their life cycles is the best action we can take to help reduce methane

production at landfills while leaving more space for true waste at our landfills. Use this article from EcoWatch as a primer to help spread talking points about the valuable resources that leaves and their decomposition in our yards can provide or what other actions you can take if you'd rather not leave all the leaves. [Why You Shouldn't Rake Your Leaves This Fall - EcoWatch](#)

Homegrown National Park also created a 20-second video promoting leaving the leaves (link here: [Leave the Leaves to Create Habitat \(vimeo.com\)](#)).



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## A Long-lived Painted Bunting!



Jennifer Tyrrell holds the 14-year-old Painted Bunting while showing off its bands. Photo: Katie Galletta

Read how a male Painted Bunting visited a backyard feeder in South Carolina and how his re-capture in July 2023 by an Audubon engagement manager confirmed his age and identity from the metal band on his leg. It was confirmed that he **ties the longevity record for the oldest known Painted Bunting at 14 years**. Will “Old Man Bunting” survive yet another migratory cycle to break his own record next spring? [‘Old Man Bunting’ Nearly Breaks the Age Record for Painted Buntings | Audubon](#)

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## Project FeederWatch Starts November 1, 2023



Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Since 2016, Project FeederWatch has been sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited.

From Project FeederWatch website ([Project Overview - FeederWatch](#)): “Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November through end-of-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. You don’t even need a feeder! All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water, or food that attracts birds. The schedule is completely flexible. Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and to contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance.”

“Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants. The annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents... and covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (Winter Bird Highlights). Without the support of [the project’s] participants, this project wouldn’t be possible...”

Learn more about the project and how the data are produced and used, the history behind the project, what’s new for this season, and much more at [FeederWatch - Count Feeder Birds for Science](#).

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**And Finally, Some Good News!**





ADAM LONG

| Now, the island is much greener

From the BBC comes a story from Redonda, a Caribbean island that Antigua and Barbuda worked to restore so that today it is “bursting with biodiversity including dozens of threatened species, globally important seabird colonies, and endemic lizards.” Work began in 2016 to remove the invasive black rats that “preyed on reptiles and ate birds’ eggs, along with goats introduced by early colonists that devastated Redonda’s vegetation and had left the island looking like a barren moonscape. ... The work was piloted by local NGO, the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), in sync with the government and overseas partners including Fauna and Flora International (FFI). Today, the island has been officially designated a protected area, the Redonda Ecosystem Reserve, by the country’s government, ensuring its status as a pivotal nesting site for migrating birds and a home for species found nowhere else on Earth is preserved for posterity. ... Since the efforts began, 15 species of land birds have returned to the island, while numbers of endemic lizards like the critically endangered Redonda ground dragon have soared.”

[Redonda: Tiny Caribbean island's transformation to wildlife haven - BBC News](#)

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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)

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