

Vol. 3 #4
10-23-2022



Upcoming Programs and Events

Jim Tomko, O.D.

Owls of Ohio

Tuesday, October 25, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Mingo Lodge in Sand Run Metro Park

1501 Sand Run Parkway, Akron, OH 44313



Eastern Screech Owl Photo: Jim Tomko, O.D.

In recognition of Raptor Month, Jim Tomko, O.D., will be presenting our October program on nocturnal raptors – owls. For an informative explanation of raptors, see this webpage by

HawkWatch International: [Hawkwatch International - Why Raptors?](#)

Twelve species of owls have been spotted in Ohio. Several (eight species) are residents, some are migrants, and a few are accidental visitors. Interesting owl trivia will be revealed.

Some tips on how, when and where to spot owls will be shared. (This is a PowerPoint presentation and no live owls will be exhibited.)

Please note: Our October program will be held in **Mingo Lodge**. *Beginning in November, our programs will be held virtually for the winter months, through February 2023.* Our meeting location will then be moving to Goodyear Heights Metro Park – West Room, beginning in March.



Western Reserve Land Conservancy
land • people • community

*Preparing Our
Gardens for
Winter*

Virtual Symposium



Western Reserve Land Conservancy has just announced a two-part webinar series designed to inform and inspire you to rethink your habit of rigorous garden clean-up. Learn about the importance of all the tiny leaf litter animals that make up the soil ecosystem and how they decompose and recycle critical nutrients. Don't cut off those stems or bag up all those leaves - instead, create an ecosystem that will thrive throughout our colder months. Discover why you need to keep 'stalk stubble', seed heads, leaf cover and even small twig piles. *Preparing Our Gardens for Winter* is brought to you by the Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium, Nature Spark and Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Through this collaboration, WRLC aims to provide attendees with the tools needed to be better stewards of our environment, from backyard gardens to large scale restoration projects. Please note you must register for each session individually below. Advanced registration is

required and a link for the virtual program will be sent upon registration.

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Leave the Leaves: Life in the Leaf Litter with Dr. Kefyn Catley

[Click here to register for Session One](#)

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Meaningful Maintenance: Fall Cleanup with Positive Impact with Neil
Diboll**

[Click here to register for Session Two](#)



ABC Birding: Owl-oween Edition (Webinar)

Thursday, October 27, 2022 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.



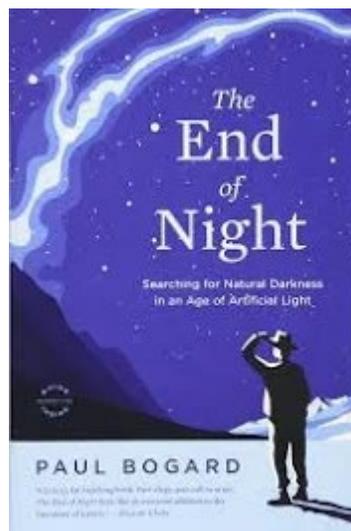
ABC Photo

If you didn't get enough info about owls at our local program, join American Bird

Conservancy (ABC) for a webinar all about owls! In the city, in the woods, or in the country, Fall is a great time to look out for owls and learn about these enigmatic predators. In their upcoming webinar, they'll share how to enjoy owls in your neck of the woods, as well as relate stories of favorite encounter stories. You'll get to meet a rescued owl, and learn more about owl anatomy and natural history. Tips on ethical owling and how you can help owls this winter will also be shared. This program features two ABC Regional Directors and a special owl guest and an educator from The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. A recording will be sent to all who register, in case you can't attend the live session. Registration link: [ABC Birding: Owl-oween Edition \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org/owls-oween)



October Book Club Discussion (Online)
Featuring Paul Bogard, Author
Thursday, October 27, 2022 8:00 p.m.



In keeping with its theme of addressing the issue of light pollution this year, Environment

for the Americas' October Book Club is featuring a live discussion with author Paul Bogard, author of the 2013 non-fiction book, ***The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light***. In it's announcement, EFTA prefaces the session with this description: A starry night is one of nature's most magical wonders. Yet in our artificially lit world, most of us no longer experience true darkness. Learn more by attending the free discussion; to register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)



Blowing in the Wind
Science to Help Understand and Help Reduce Wildlife Impacts from Wind Energy
by Manuela Huso
USGS, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center

- A key challenge facing the wind industry is the potential for wind turbines to impact wild animals both directly, via collisions, as well as indirectly due to noise pollution, habitat loss, and reduced survival or reproduction.
- Learn about the efforts and studies that have been going on for the past two decades to measure direct mortality of wildlife from wind power development and to test ways of reducing this impact.

Live Online Public Lecture • October 27, 2022 at 6PM PDT • www.usgs.gov/pls

The image is a promotional poster for a USGS lecture. It features a background of a field with several wind turbines under a blue sky. The text is centered and includes the title 'Blowing in the Wind' in a large, red, serif font. Below the title is the subtitle 'Science to Help Understand and Help Reduce Wildlife Impacts from Wind Energy' in a smaller, red, serif font. The author's name 'by Manuela Huso' and affiliation 'USGS, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center' are listed below the subtitle. Two bullet points describe the lecture's focus on wildlife impacts and research efforts. At the bottom, a white box contains the event details: 'Live Online Public Lecture • October 27, 2022 at 6PM PDT • www.usgs.gov/pls'.

Thursday, October 27, 2022 9:00 – 10:00 p.m.

To join the online public lecture, see the link in the Regional Bird Calendar, sponsored by the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio: [CALENDAR \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](http://calendar.kirtlandbirdclub.org) The format will use Microsoft Teams.

The Ohio Bat Working Group's All About Bats Video Series



Not to take anything away from our feathered friends, but in 2019, the Ohio government began recognizing **National Bat Week (October 24 – 31st)**, an annual, international celebration of the role of bats in nature that also raises awareness about the need for bat conservation. Visit the National Bat Week's website at www.batweek.org for more information on bats and how to take action no matter where you are. In Ohio, the Ohio Bat Working Group members have created a series of videos for Bat Week and beyond! These videos were created to address a variety of topics related to bats in Ohio with the intent to aid educators in preparing and delivering bat programs. Visit their webpage [Bat Week | Ohio Bat Working Group \(osu.edu\)](http://BatWeek.OhioBatWorkingGroup.osu.edu) to view the videos, learn about Ohio Bat Week events or to **register** for a **webinar** from Ohio State University Extension's Ohio Woodland Stewards Program. *Friday's Escape to the Forest* series continues with ***The Winter Life of Ohio's Bats on Friday, October 28th at 10:00 a.m.*** when Joe Johnson, bat ecologist with the University of Cincinnati, explores the world of bats and takes a deeper dive into their lives during winter. Where are they hibernating? How are they dealing with white-nose syndrome? These and other questions will be explored! What is the scientific study of bats called? Chiropterology, of course! (FYI: These webinars are **not** usually recorded and forwarded to those registered.)



Summit Metro Parks photo

Gorge Dam Public Meeting
Monday, October 31, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium
2345 4th St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

The Gorge Dam, constructed in 1912, generated power until 1958 and its reservoir was used by a nearby coal plant until 1991. Since then, the dam has not had a practical use. The dam is one of the largest unresolved impediments to restoring the water quality of the Cuyahoga River; five dams on the Cuyahoga River have already come down in recent years and the Gorge Dam is the last one scheduled to be removed. Now, local, state, and regional partners are working to remove the dam and the contaminated sediment behind it to help make the river freer and healthier which will, in turn improve the river's ecology, create recreational opportunities and drive economic benefits within the local community.

Now in its sixth year, the dam removal project is managed by a group of partners that includes the City of Akron, City of Cuyahoga Falls, FirstEnergy, County of Summit, Summit County Council, Summit Metro Parks, The University of Akron, Ohio EPA, Ohio Lake Erie Commission and U.S. EPA. Currently, U.S. EPA is designing the sediment management portion of the project and the City of Akron is engineering the dam removal. Both design projects are funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), with matching funds through the State of Ohio.

The dam is slated to be removed in the near future so as to reveal the waterfall for which the city was named. To hear more about the dam removal process and what's in store, you are invited to attend a public meeting, hosted by the community partners, as they present a project status update. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Owls and Howls (In-person Program)
Thursday, November 3, 2022 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Liberty Park Nature Center
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087

Join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist after dark to discover some of the park's most elusive and misunderstood residents. After a short presentation in the shelter, we will take a quiet hike to call these creatures with hopes they will respond. Bring your patience, curiosity and a small flashlight if you wish. Good for Fall Hiking Spree credit.

Bird Walk

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Saturday, November 5, 2022 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, OH 44141

Join a 1.5-mile search for unusual northern visitors along the flat, unpaved Buckeye Trail near Jaite.

News You Can Use

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks Making Headlines in Northeast Ohio

Although Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks first appeared in Ohio in 2004, this tropical bird, whose northern limits were typically in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas twenty years ago, has expanded its range northward and eastward fairly rapidly. The Henry Miller family in Wayne County found themselves in the middle of birding history when a neighbor identified their strange looking ducks that were nesting in a small pond on their sheep farm. This is the first noted nesting occurrence in Ohio! Typically raised by both parents, this brood apparently has only one adult to care for all chicks – which numbered ten at first (near September 8th) but have decreased to eight as of October 16th. Mr. Miller welcomed birders

to his farm and even has a guest book for visitors to sign. However, this later-than-usual brood is in a race against the elements with winter weather fast approaching. Usually, the chicks cannot fly until they're a couple of months old and all estimates would put that timeframe at the second week of November! Jim McCormac posted about this first nesting record in Ohio on September 14, 2022 in his Ohio Birds and Biodiversity blog: [Ohio Birds and Biodiversity: Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks nest in Ohio: First record! \(jimccormac.blogspot.com\)](https://jimccormac.blogspot.com).

Bob Lane, of Mahoning County, first wrote about the *Dendrocygna autumnalis* nestlings, which apparently nested about 3 months later than normal, on the *Ohio ListServe* on September 11th; on September 14th, he described the lengths Mr. Miller and his neighbor went to, in order to make the area accessible to visiting birders so they could view the adult and chicks; on his September 21st visit, he reported eight chicks remaining. His latest report, on October 14th, left us wondering if the birds will be able to survive the next three weeks until they're able to fly. Rob Swindell, President of Black River Audubon Society, featured the duck family in his column for the Elyria *Chronicle-Telegram* on September 23rd. The October 2022 edition of *The Birding Community E-Bulletin* featured the story and Jim McCormac's blog entry as well as a link to Tom Fishburn's photos and video: [2022 Wayne County - Black-bellied Whistling-Duck Family - fowlman1954 \(smugmug.com\)](https://smugmug.com) Tom is an active northeast Ohio bird and nature photographer and is the new Photo Editor for the Ohio Ornithological Society's *The Ohio Cardinal*, as well as an active member of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. The *Wooster Daily Record* and the *Akron Beacon Journal* also featured stories about the single parent and eight ducklings.



**Birdwatching and Your Brain:
Curiosity, natural environments and social connections are some of the
benefits of being a birder**

Next Avenue is a nonprofit, digital journalism publication produced by Twin Cities PBS (TPT) whose mission is to meet the needs and unleash the potential of older Americans

through the power of media. In a late September article for the publication, freelance writer Rosie Wolf Williams details the benefits of birdwatching and looks at how the hobby can help maintain cognitive function, social networks and physical and mental well-being as we age. Read the article: [Birdwatching and Your Brain | Next Avenue](#)

Chimney Swift Tower Dedicated at UA Field Station



GAAS File photo

Greater Akron Audubon Society partners with the UA Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve and has supported some of its many educational efforts for many years. The chapter donated the funds for the construction of a Chimney Swift tower over three years ago. The tower and its artistic design, construction and placement was a collaboration with University of Akron, Kent State University, the Field Station and Judy Semroc. The tower was officially dedicated on Saturday, October 8, 2022 during the Fall into Nature event at Bath Nature Preserve. The event was open to the public and many community groups were represented with fun family activities. Our chapter's Board of Directors attended and took part in the day's activities with information and activity tables. Naturalist Judy Semroc will present a program about Chimney Swifts next year at the UA Field Station. We can only hope that the birds will now find the tower and begin to use it as a nesting and roosting site.

Summit Metro Parks Announces Completion of Freedom Trail Phase III and Additional Amenities



Summit Metro Parks photo

In an October 11th news release, Summit Metro Parks announced that Phase III of the Freedom Trail is now complete and it offers bikers and hikers a newly paved path extending from Eastwood Ave. to East Mill St. The Freedom Trail is a multipurpose trail that follows an unused railroad corridor on land owned by METRO Regional Transit Authority, the University of Akron and Summit Metro Parks. Construction on the Freedom Trail began in 2011, with the first phase being 4.2 miles. When complete, the trail will stretch nearly 10 miles from the Portage County line in Tallmadge to the Towpath Trail in downtown Akron. Also this year, the park district reconstructed the Middlebury Rd. Trailhead in Tallmadge and built an extension of Freedom Trail Phase I to the new parking lot. To view Freedom Trail project updates and share feedback, visit the park district's website: [Project Updates | Summit Metro Parks](#).

Spotted Lanternfly is Spreading in Ohio: Be on the Lookout!

Observant birders may help report the signs of SLF, an insect native to China, India, and Vietnam, that attacks fruit plants, such as grapes and apples, ornamental, and woody trees. It has been confirmed as present in Cuyahoga and Jefferson and Lorain Counties in Ohio and recently the Ohio Department of Agriculture confirmed a new, small population of Spotted Lanternfly in the Cincinnati area. SLF will lay eggs beginning in October through the beginning of winter. The egg masses of the SLF are small, grey masses protected by a waxy covering and may be laid on any hard surface, including trees, rocks, and outdoor furniture. Egg masses can be removed by scrapping with a hard or rigid tool and disposed of into a container of rubbing alcohol.



Spotted Lanternfly can feed on more than 100 plant species, and has the potential to greatly impact the viticulture, tree fruit, nursery, and timber and maple sugar industries. If you suspect a spotted lanternfly infestation, at any life stage, please take a picture or collect a sample and **report the finding to the ODA Plant Pest Control** using the Ohio Plant Pest Reporter. Find more information about this potentially dangerous leafhopper and how to report it here: [Spotted Lanternfly | Ohio Department of Agriculture](#).

Now is the Time to Plant Common Milkweed Seeds!

The monarch butterfly population has dropped an alarming 80% east of the Rocky Mountains since the mid-1990s. Milkweed is the only plant monarch caterpillars eat. You can take action in your own backyard (literally) that can help bolster the dwindling populations of these iconic insects by planting native Common Milkweed, (*Asclepias*

syriaca) Fall is the best time to plant the seeds so the cold temperatures and moisture that come with winter stimulate germination. Over 450 native insects (bird food?) also feed on the nectar, sap, leaves, and flowers of the perennial Common Milkweed; it has a taproot and, once established, will spread by its rhizomatous root system. It's best planted in the sunniest parts of your yard or garden. If you have a choice of soil, most milkweed species thrive in light, well-drained soils with seeds planted a quarter-inch deep. A mulch layer of leaves or straw can cover the soil but avoid packing it down. Water the seeds well and mark where you planted them. Consider putting chicken wire down to deter squirrels or other pesky critters from digging up your new milkweed patch.

GAAS Welcomes Daniel Toth as Christmas Bird Count Compiler

National Audubon will soon be gearing up for its **123rd year** of community science with this year's Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year, Greater Akron Audubon Society welcomes a new CBC compiler: Daniel Toth. He's been a Park Biologist at Summit Metro Parks since 2014 and works on inventory surveys throughout the park district—including fish electroshocking surveys, bat mist netting and acoustic surveys, herpetological surveys and bird surveys. When managing conservation areas, he maintains a bird's eye view perspective so that avian communities in our area are provided maximum benefits. Daniel's been involved with the CBC and Summer Breeding Bird Census since 2015 and actively participates with other bird counts in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Daniel's been an avid birder and conservationist for much of his life and attributes his love for birding to his late grandmother, who also had a passion for birds. He visits Magee Marsh area each spring during migration and photographs birds and other wildlife and participates in numerous avian-related activities throughout the year. He also enjoys teaching others about conservation and the wildlife in our area, especially warblers and waterfowl and hopes to become a bird bander and create opportunities for everyone to learn about birds up-close.

Now is the time to start making plans to participate in our chapter's CBC circle, centered in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Mark Sunday, **December 18, 2022** on your calendar and plan to participate by joining a group in the field or, if you live within the bounds of the circle, you can plan to count from the warmth of your home by doing a feeder count for any length of time you choose on that day. Consider starting a family tradition. Newer birders may be paired with more experienced teams in the field. Having an extra set of eyes to find birds

helps make the count more accurate – and fun! Have a look at our CBC web page and discover more about the circle, past counts, past compilers and the 19 territories within the circle's boundary: [Christmas Bird Count - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#).

GAAS Fundraiser: Wild Bird Seed Sale November 5, 2022



Our chapter's only fundraiser, the Wild Bird Seed Sale, is now underway. If you are a member of National Audubon Society who lives within our chapter's geographic area, you most likely received an orange order form in the mail. If you've ordered seed in the past, you also may have received the order form that also shows our upcoming speakers through June 2023. If you didn't receive a card, you can find an order form on our website: [Greater Akron Audubon Society annual wild bird seed sale](#). Pre-paid orders should be received by Friday, October 28th and seed pick-up is from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5th at Copley Feed, 1468 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road. 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. We also appreciate volunteers who give of their time and talents to assist the chapter in its efforts to promote birding and conservation.

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)

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