



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS October Program

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Shady Hollow Lodge in Sand Run Metro Park

1750 Sand Run Parkway, Akron, OH 44313

(Note location and see note below)



Connecting People with Nature

Nathan Eppink, Director of Medina County Park District (MCPD), will present a history and overview of Medina County's Parks. The Park District currently manages 7,500 acres and diligently strives to preserve land in Medina County. Currently, there are over 18 open park sites/nature preserves and nearly 50 trails throughout Medina County.

(Because this is an indoor event, we ***respectfully request that all attendees wear face masks.***)

Summit Metro Parks has informed us that a GPS does not work for Sand Run Parkway. Because of changing road conditions, it is best to approach Shady Hollow Lodge from the intersection of Sand Run Parkway and Portage Path.

A graphic for a panel discussion. The background is a teal map of the United States with several black silhouettes of birds in flight. The text is overlaid on the map. The title 'Unraveling the Mysteries of Migration with BirdNote' is in white text on a dark teal background. The date and time 'Panel Discussion October 27th 7 - 8:15pm ET' is in white text on a lighter teal background. A small credit 'Credit: Don Sniegowski, Map: NOAA' is at the bottom left.

Unraveling the Mysteries of Migration with BirdNote

Panel Discussion
October 27th
7 - 8:15pm ET

Credit: Don Sniegowski, Map: NOAA

BirdNote^R is an independent media company that partners with National Audubon, among other conservation groups, to connect people with birds and the environments we share. This special virtual event delves into the big mysteries of migration, answers your questions about how birds travel thousands of miles every year, and discusses how we can all support migratory birds. Join host Arianna Remmel (a chemist turned scientific journalist) and panelists Scott Weidensaul (ornithologist and author), Marcella Castellino (Argentine shorebird researcher and conservationist), and Julia Wang (Cornell Lab's BirdCast Project Leader) as they discuss new technologies and recent insights into the successful biannual migratory journeys of birds and what we can all do to make our cities safer for their passages. To learn more and register, see [Unraveling the Mysteries of Migration with BirdNote | BirdNote](#).

The Wild Bird Seed Sale (our only fundraiser) will be held **November 6, 2021** with generous cooperation from Copley Feed and Supply, 1468 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd. and Boy Scout Troop #382. Order form postcards were mailed to Audubon members of record and will be available at the October meeting. Order forms are also on our website at <https://www.akronaudubon.org/bird-seed-sale.html>. The deadline for return of the order form is **October 29**. Pick-up will be held from **10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Please consider purchasing seed (*Black Oil Sunflower preferred*) as a donation to the University of Akron's Field Station's feeders (at Bath Nature Preserve) if you don't or can't feed birds at your place of residence. As GAAS partners with the UA Field Station, your designated donations will stretch their limited funds that would otherwise be used for educational outreach efforts.

A **bird walk** will be held in **Cuyahoga Valley National Park** on Saturday, **November 6, 2021 at 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** to search for unusual late fall thicket birds along a flat, 1.5 mile trail. Because the park is now limiting group size and requiring registration for all events as part of their COVID safety guidelines, they are not advertising locations. Upon registering through Eventbrite, a location will be sent to your email. The walk, with registration link will be on the CVNP Calendar of

Events: <https://www.conservancyforcvnp.org/calendar/>. However, the event is not currently “live,” so it does not yet appear on the calendar. Please check the link in early November.

Virtual Bird Walks with Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society

Each month Western Cuyahoga Audubon invites members, and now also Akron Audubon members, to bird on their own at a monthly designated field trip location to share stories or nature photography that may focus on certain species or subject matter (for example, birds on dead trees) that are then compiled into a digital scrapbook. At a virtual meet-up on the second Wednesday of the following month, field trip co-coordinator Michelle Brosius reviews the scrapbook and participants discuss their observations. In this way, we become familiar with new birding hotspots and can connect to a community of like-minded birders and nature lovers in a fun and safe way. Interested? Here’s the info for the upcoming November virtual field trip. If anyone from GAAS attends, we’d love to hear your feedback; please share your experience.



Photo: White-throated Sparrow by Michelle Brosius

Field Trip to Lake Metroparks Chagrin River Park

Dates: November 1-30, 2021

Location: Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation, 850 Euclid Creek Parkway, Cleveland, OH

44121 [Map](#)

Featured Bird Species: Wild Turkey and White-throated Sparrow

Virtual Meetup: Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Notes: It is the month of Thanksgiving so let's look for Wild Turkey! We'll also look for the White-throated Sparrow, too. Chagrin River Park is a great location for birding and features handicap parking spaces at all entrances, heated restroom facilities at the west and east entrances, and compacted gravel and asphalt trails. Please check out the Chagrin River Park trail map for parking, restrooms, and trail conditions. Park hours are 6:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

For more information and/or to register, please see [Field Trip to Lake Metroparks Chagrin River Park and Meetup Tickets, Wed, Dec 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Past virtual field trips in 2021 were recorded and are available to watch on YouTube: [Field Reports 2021 - Western Cuyahoga Audubon \(wcaudubon.org\)](#)

Land Preservation: Options to Development



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community

Preserve the Valley will present an **informational session** featuring Andy McDowell, Vice President of Western Field Operations for Western Reserve Land Conservancy on **November 17 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Towpath Tennis Club, 2108 Akron Peninsula Rd, Akron, OH 44313.**

Mr. McDowell will discuss land preservation options for private landowners and how the Land Conservancy works with government agencies and other organizations to acquire land for parks and preserves. He will describe various options for private landowners using conservation easements and the tax benefits associated with them as well as the process for acquiring land for public parks and preserves.

Andy McDowell is also the liaison to farmland preservation relationships. He provides direction and leadership of the Land Conservancy's efforts in 12 counties. Andy, an environmental education graduate of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, worked as a Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks naturalist and as the vice president of exhibits and building operations for the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland before joining the Land Conservancy in 2006. Masks will be required.

Looking Ahead

Our November program will be held *virtually* on Tuesday, November 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Jen Harvey, from Summit Metro Parks, will present a **Summit Metro Parks Centennial Update**.



Other Concerns

Birders, speak up to reinstate birding access along railroad tracks in Cuyahoga Valley National Park!

On August 31st Cuyahoga Valley National Park announced closure of the railroad tracks to pedestrians within the CVNP [National Park Service and Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad urge visitors to play it safe around railroad tracks - Cuyahoga Valley National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#). The closure was prompted by the "Steam in the Valley" event in September. But it is a permanent closure since the train has had a number of close calls in the past as well as vandalism of train cars parked along the tracks. "Effective immediately, the tracks and four feet beyond the railroad ties are closed to pedestrian traffic" is the legal definition. This closure applies to everyone, including birders, fishermen, photographers, hikers, etc. and it means that the spring Sunday morning walks in April and May will not be allowed north or south on the tracks at Station Road or at Jaite; violators can be fined.

The park recognizes the importance of the marshes along the tracks to birders because of the rarer species found there. This is especially so along the tracks north and south at Station Rd as well as at Jaite. The CVNP would like to hear from the birding community. *Please send questions or comments to Pamela Barnes (pamela_barnes@nps.gov), CVNP Community Engagement Supervisor/Public Information Officer or to the CVNP Park Superintendent (cuva_superintendent@nps.gov).* The Community Access Plan page link: [Public Involvement - Cuyahoga Valley National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#). Every comment or letter to the park is read, so please let them know that you value the park's resources.

The park has long-term management plans, but they will be more likely to consider the importance of bird habitat, and access to it, when they have written comments on record. If you have any ideas for safe access along the tracks, please bring them to the attention of the CVNP. Perhaps on days when the train does not run access could be permitted. Could there be access from Riverview Road? Let's let our voices be heard!

The International Crane Foundation has a wonderful opportunity to apply for a €30,000 award from the European Outdoor Conservation Association and requires your help.

This award will help our team in Africa in their pursuit of protecting **Grey Crowned Cranes** in and around the **Rugezi Marsh in Rwanda**. A summary of the project is below.

[Conserving Grey Crowned Cranes with local communities and gorilla ecotourists, Rwanda](#)

Africa's Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes are the fastest declining crane species in the world, due to habitat loss, illegal trade in chicks for pets, and reduced breeding success due to human disturbance while nesting. Rugezi Marsh supports 30% of Rwanda's Grey Crowned Cranes, yet even here, they have virtually disappeared as a breeding species because some of the over 300,000 people neighbouring the marsh harvest grass from it illegally, disturbing the cranes. In return for not harvesting grass from the marsh, the International Crane Foundation/Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership will work with two communities to protect 2,000 hectares of it by training and equipping 20 bird guides and promoting the marsh and its cranes as a destination to ecotourists who pass nearby on their way to see Rwanda's famous gorillas.

Napier Grass will also be provided for animal food in return for not harvesting grass from the marsh, which will reduce disturbance to breeding cranes, CO2 release from exposed marshland soil, and erosion from hillsides that clogs up the marsh. Mattresses will also be provided as an alternative to grass harvesting for bedding for 40 households, again reducing human presence and disturbance in the wetland.

The project with the **most votes** in a given category will receive the funds. **Each electronic device is allowed one vote.** One can vote on multiple devices: cell phone, laptop, home computer, etc. Voting deadline is [7:00 am Eastern Time on Friday, October 29.](#)

Voting is easy. Click on the link <https://www.eocaconservation.org/project-voting-category.cfm?catid=1>.

Find the *Conserving Grey Crowned Cranes* project and click on the box to vote. You will also have to state you are not a robot.

Save the Date for our Christmas Bird Count!

December 19, 2021

The 122nd Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the nation's longest-running community science bird project is again being held with COVID-19 protocols in place. Our chapter's Count Circle is centered in Cuyahoga Falls at the intersection of Broad and 2nd Street and extends to a radius of 7.5 miles. This circle is broken into 19 territories that have assigned leaders who are responsible for reporting the results of the count in their territory. As part of the count, anyone who resides within the circle's boundaries may also participate in the associated Feeder Count. The count has come a long way since 1900, when 27 dedicated birders, conducted counts in 25 circles that ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined. Look for more details on our chapter's count coming in November.

In Search of a Facebook Page Administrator

If you'd care to assist our chapter by keeping our Facebook page current with a post or two each month and providing timely details on chapter programs and activities, please email info@akronaudubon.org with your contact info.

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.

Please direct questions or comments to info@akronaudubon.org