



Upcoming Programs and Events

A Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) Presentation

Jennifer Kuroda: Becoming a Bird City (Virtual)

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 7:00 p.m.



From COAC Website: counciloac.org

COAC is excited to have a special guest, Jennifer Kuroda, join the monthly COAC Chapter Meeting. She'll be sharing the experiences of her local chapter, Sinnissippi Audubon Chapter in Rockford, Illinois being designated as a Bird City in December 2021. The Bird City Network ([Bird City Network](#)) is a conservation program that brings people together to work toward creating healthier communities that benefit both people and birds. Sinnissippi Audubon Society worked with several community organizations in Rockford and Winnebago County on the Bird City initiative. By documenting multiple

programs and events that support bird conservation, including work done by the Rockford Park District, Natural Land Institute and Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, the chapter helped Rockford become one of six Bird Cities in Illinois.

COAC would like to have Audubon Chapters throughout Ohio working on conservation initiatives such as this. Please consider attending this meeting to hear about the initiative. Would you be interested in helping a town in our chapter area earn a Bird City designation? Join the meeting using the Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4256338302?pwd=Mm03QVZrSDFjSmFlamtKVDJTdlV1QT09>

Meeting ID: [425 633 8302](#)

Passcode: 0ynXLG

Summit Metro Parks Program

Bird Nerds: Owls

Saturday, October 14, 2023 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are invited to join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist to explore a new group of birds each month. Adaptations, behavior, identification and more will be presented, followed by a walk on a trail to practice this month's look at owls.

Summit Metro Parks Program

Leaf It: The Benefit of Leaves in Your Yard

Saturday, October 21, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Liberty Park Nature Center
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087**



Autumn means time for that tedious task of raking, bagging and disposing of leaves – or does it: Learn how leaving the leaves can benefit your yard and the environment while making your life easier! After the presentation, go for a walk with a naturalist to look at how the leaf layer is important to the forest.



DIY Birdfeeders: That's for the Birds

Sunday, October 22, 2023 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Summit Lake Nature Center
411 Ira Ave., Akron, OH 44301**



Join staff from Summit Metro Parks in making a DIY bird feeder to take home and add to your Wild Back Yard. Advance registration begins on Friday, October 13, 2023. Call [330-865-8065](tel:330-865-8065) to reserve your spot.



Ohio Invasive Plants Council Research Conference

***Invasive Plants and Global Change:
Addressing the Challenges of Tomorrow***

Friday, October 27, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

2201 Fred Taylor Drive, Columbus, OH 43210



OIPC hosts a research conference every three years. The conference encourages interaction among land managers, scientists, the green industry and the public concerning invasive plants in natural and managed ecosystems. Among the speakers are noted scientists from Columbia University, Princeton University, The Ohio State University, and Pennsylvania State University. The full agenda and registration (by October 22, 2023) using Eventbrite are here: [OIPC Research Conference: Invasive Plants and Global Change Tickets, Fri, Oct 27, 2023 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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### **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.

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.

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## **Bird Walks**

As of publishing deadline there are no local public bird walks scheduled between October 9<sup>th</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio is having a walk at a location that's definitely worth a drive and the time – and it's on World Migratory Bird Day!

### **Sandy Ridge Reservation**

### **The Johnson Wetland Center**

**Saturday, October 14, 2023**

**(Rain Date, Sunday, October 15, 2023)**

**9:00 a.m. (either day)**

**6195 Otten Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039**



Join Fred and Cheryl Dinkelbach at this Lorain County Metro Park that's also a stop on the Lake Erie Birding Trail. They'll lead the 2-mile walk on the trail through the woodlot and around the marsh impoundments, looking for passerines (songbirds), sparrows, and

waterfowl. Expect to see many of the 128+ species seen here since October 2022. For more detail, see the Birding Hotspots info here: [Sandy Ridge Reservation - Lorain, Ohio, US - Birding Hotspots](#) Explore eBird data at Sandy Ridge: [Bar Charts - eBird](#) (may take a while to load).

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## News You Can Use

### Ohio Community Solar Bill Introduced

**SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS ACTION**



Representatives James Hoops and Sharon Ray have introduced Ohio House Bill 197, a Community Solar Pilot program that would make solar power available for renters, condos, townhomes, and most small to medium size businesses who cannot install rooftop solar. National Audubon and Audubon Great Lakes support this bill that would enable individuals, businesses, or organizations to buy or subscribe to a “share” in a local solar project. Subscribers would then receive a credit on their electric bill each month; the size of your share would determine how much credit you receive. Read more about the pilot program and let your Ohio House representative know that you support HB 197: [OH community solar bill introduced! | Solar United Neighbors](#)

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### World Migratory Bird Day is October 14<sup>th</sup>!



World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual campaign dedicated to conserving migratory birds and their habitats to raise awareness about the challenges these birds face and the importance of international collaboration.

Every year, people around the world come together for WMBD by organizing public events such as bird festivals, educational programs, exhibitions, and bird-watching excursions ([Water #WMBD2023 | World Migratory Bird Day](#)).

### **Uniting under a Global Theme**

This year's theme is "water" and highlights the crucial role aquatic ecosystems play in the lives of migratory birds.

Water is essential to life on our planet, and migratory birds heavily rely on inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water for their survival. Unfortunately, these ecosystems are facing increasing threats due to human activity, putting migratory birds at risk.

This year on WMBD, **GAAS will be at** the UA Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve for the annual ***Fall into Nature*** event sponsored by Bath Township, Bath Park Board and The University of Akron Field Station! This free family-friendly event runs from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and features family fun and seasonal activities. A partial solar eclipse is at its maximum at 1:08 p.m. Safety glasses for safely viewing the sun will be available at the observatory. For questions call [330-666-4007](tel:330-666-4007)

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**Bird-safe Halloween Decorations**  
**(A message from Environment for the Americas)**



Photo from EFTA

As we get ready for Halloween, it's important to think about the impact our decorations can have on local birds, especially those on migratory routes.

Here are some easy ways to create festive decorations that are also safe for birds.

### **Choose natural materials**

Opt for eco-conscious options like straw, untreated wood, and twine instead of harmful plastics. Look for labels that ensure the materials are free of dangerous chemicals.

### **Avoid glitter and foil**

While shiny materials might catch your eye, they can be harmful if ingested by birds. Instead, go for earthy, non-reflective materials that blend in with nature. Steer clear of confetti too, as small pieces can harm birds if swallowed.

### **Say goodbye to balloons**

Balloons may bring joy, but they can be a serious threat to birds if accidentally consumed. Consider using alternatives like paper lanterns or banners.

### **Hang decorations safely**

Prevent birds from getting tangled by hanging decorations at a safe height. Check for loose ribbons or twine and trim anything that could entangle birds. Avoid artificial cobwebs or other decorations that can cause harm.

### **Illuminate responsibly with LED lights**

Choose energy-efficient LED lights over traditional bulbs or better yet, embrace the dark. Since many birds undertake their journeys at night, it's important to be mindful of



minimizing outdoor light usage after sunset, especially during the fall season.

### **Keep it peaceful**

Loud noises can stress and harm birds. Consider quieter alternatives like eerie music, spooky sound effects, or a cozy storytelling session around a campfire.

Unleash your creativity this Halloween and create decorations that are both bird-friendly and safe. By following these simple tips, we can protect migratory birds while celebrating. Happy Halloween!

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### **North American Migratory Songbirds Blown Off-Course by Hurricane Lee**



In a rare turn of events, many species of North American migratory songbirds were blown across the Atlantic Ocean to United Kingdom locations by Hurricane Lee. British birders flocked in great numbers to see the rare visitors that were apparently blown off-course and survived the high winds to land in the British Isles. The Canada Warbler had never been seen before and Magnolia and Bay-breasted Warblers were very rare occurrences. Other species blown over to the UK included Blackburnian Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Cliff Swallow, Bobolink, Baltimore Oriole, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, and Empidonax sp. As climate change hastens earlier storms that occur during peak migration times, could “our” American birds become more jeopardized *enroute* to their wintering grounds? Read about the rare occurrence and the unexpected excitement it brought to UK birders in this piece by The Guardian’s Phoebe Weston: [‘In total shock’: birdwatchers amazed as ‘uber-rare’ American birds land in UK | Birds | The Guardian](#)

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### **Fall Invasive Plant Focus: Japanese Hops (From OIPC)**



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff from [invasives.org](https://invasives.org)

Japanese hop or hops (*Humulus japonicus*) is a rapidly growing vine in the Hemp family that is often found along rivers floodplains, and lakeshores. Its rapid growth of up to 35 ft in a growing season means that it can quickly overtop other vegetation. In northeast Ohio, it has been found in Summit and Cuyahoga Counties, among others in Ohio. If you have this invasive plant growing on your property, it would be good to remove it as soon as possible. Read more about this species: [Microsoft Word - Newsletter\\_JapaneseHops.docx \(oipc.info\)](#)

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## Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative: 2023 Milkweed Pod Collection



In an effort to save monarch butterflies, wild Common Milkweed pods are being collected at area Soil & Water Conservation Districts through November 11, 2023. **Common Milkweed** is the only host plant for the monarchs, which means that they only lay their eggs on this species of milkweed; after the caterpillars hatch, they eat the leaves that contain toxins. The monarchs have evolved immunity from those toxins, so as they feed on the leaves, they store up the toxins in their body, which, in turn, makes them taste bad to their predators. (This toxicity remains after metamorphosis so that the adult butterflies are protected as well.) The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative is a non-profit collaboration with many other like-minded Ohio organizations ([About Us | Ohio Pollinator](#)) whose mission is to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators. Tips for collecting the pods can be found on their informational brochure:

[C:\Users\MRETTE~1\AppData\Local\Temp\msoA43C.tmp\\_\(ohiopollinator.org\)](C:\Users\MRETTE~1\AppData\Local\Temp\msoA43C.tmp_(ohiopollinator.org)).

Pods collected through November 11<sup>th</sup> will be cleaned and the seeds will be used to establish new plantings and create new monarch butterfly habitat in Ohio. Pods are ripe for collecting when they are *dry and gray or brown and the pod pops at the center seam with gentle pressure*. Collect pods in paper bags or cardboard boxes and wear disposable gloves while harvesting. Harvest only from your property or with permission on anyone's property but your own. Collecting is prohibited in county, state and national parks as well.

Write the date and county they were collected from when you turn them in to collection bins. In Summit County, a green bin is located at 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., located outside Door 19. In Medina County, the bin is located at 6090 Wedgwood Rd., Medina, OH 44256.

For more information, email [sbarbic@summitoh.net](mailto:sbarbic@summitoh.net) or call [330-929-2871](tel:330-929-2871). Ohio

Department of Natural Resources will pick up the bins on November 12<sup>th</sup>.



**Birdability Week is October 16 – 22<sup>nd</sup>!**



Birdability Week is a celebration of birders with disabilities and other health concerns, as well as an opportunity to share resources and ideas to help the birding community become accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to every body! It is an annual commemoration in October, drawing inspiration from other inclusive celebrations such as #BlackBirdersWeek, Latino Conservation Week and Let's Go Birding Together. The folks at Birdability have put together some live and recorded online programs to bring awareness to the week. Panel discussions, Field Sketching, and Trivia Night are featured, along with a T-Shirt Art contest, an Accessible Bioblitz, and they're accepting submissions on mindful birding and mental health to be included on their web page during the week.

Explore the many options here: [Birdability Week 2023 — Birdability](#)



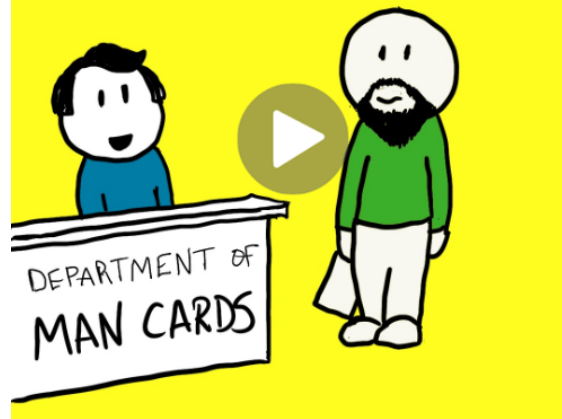
**Humor from Homegrown National Park**

**Man Card Renewal Video**

(A video about how men can earn a special sticker for their man card.)

<https://homegrownnationalpark.us2.list-manage.com/track/clic...>

## Man Card Renewal



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### Breaking News:

#### **Birders' Joy Turns to Shock as Massive Migratory Wave Leads to Mass Mortality Due to Collisions With Chicago Buildings**



Field Museum staff collected 1,000 dead birds Thursday from the grounds of McCormick Place. (Courtesy of Taylor Hains)

Many birders woke to this news out of Chicago on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>: Read the article and vow to take up the issue of GLASS, #2 killer of birds. When we have the tools such as Birdcast and bird-friendly glass and Feather Friendly tapes as mitigation measures, nights such as these are preventable and inexcusable! [Birders' Joy Turns to Shock as Massive](#)

On Wednesday, October 4, 2023 (just ONE DAY before the Chicago incident) Ron Canterbury, editor of the *Ohio Cardinal*, had posted to the Ohio Ornithological Society's Ohio-Birds ListServ his frustrations of witnessing bird fatalities over several decades with little or no action to mitigate the issue at local, state and federal levels. With his permission, here are edited excerpts from that post, incorporating an earlier post on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

“ Dear Birders,

... As many of you know, many birds are killed in [North America] and worldwide at glass windows...My students and I have been conducting the *Avian Mortalities Project* on UC's two campuses for years. We are losing many, many Ovenbirds...and...in short, so many dead birds daily that I cannot keep up. We need to have a much more extensive lobbying at local, state, and national levels, stronger laws protecting wildlife and to hold developers and architects accountable. Hey, everyone should know that birds are not designed to fly through glass!

I realize we are up against a strong national, local, and state unwillingness for those outside birding to contribute and to take this seriously and that we are running out of time, which is typical and contributes to our human mentality of wrong priorities, i.e., imagine if we get up tomorrow and rather than hear about politics, we hear about what we are doing to save species in an era of human-induced mass mortalities/extinctions and what to do about global climate change. The same analogy applies that if we were eliminating Burmese Pythons 24-7 in Florida and with more methods and manpower that we are currently using! The python challenge should be daily, in ever [sic] locality, etc.

... Birds are pivotal to our ecosystems, no forest industry, no crops, etc. without birds! ... [There is] urgency to act now, and more robustly! I am willing to help lead these efforts! Let's face it, there are really no rules and regulations on development and on industries. Developers can build about anything they want! Overall, our World is functioning with little to no urgency! I personally think the situation is much more dire than we realize!

...We MUST change the narrative now! The urgency, with human-induced 6th mass extinction, is Earth cannot sustain infinity of exponential population growth, development, etc. We cannot build into infinity and still have a viable planet. With my rant, you now must know I am against social media, mobile phones, domesticated and feral cats outside, etc.  
Sorry!

Yes, I realize most everyone on this platform knows all this. You are welcome to hit the delete button on this email! But, I, Ronald C., am tired of picking up dead birds daily! I

have nearly killed myself walking over 200 acres, checking over 100 buildings for 2 ½ hours a day, where we hardly ever anymore have a day of "no dead birds"! ...We get dead birds almost daily, year 'round. ”

We need to change this narrative starting with where we live in Ohio. From Cleveland to Cincinnati, Toledo to Athens, corporate, government, non-profit and educational buildings are being built and rehabilitated with little or no regard for recognizing the bird – glass collision and mortality issue. Let's not let the outrage and anger turn to despair and/or acceptance and complacency. Won't you join GAAS in our efforts to work with others to effect practical as well as legislative change?

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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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](http://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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