

Vol.3 #6  
11-20-2022



## Upcoming Programs and Events

**GAAS November Program Meeting (Online)**

**Kathy L. Mock**

**The Magic of Merlins**

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022 7:00 p.m.**



What began as a serendipitous observation of a Merlin through Kathy L. Mock's window during the 2017 Great Backyard Bird Count has turned into a 5-years-and-counting obsession with these fascinating falcons. One overwintering bird has grown to eight through the years, and in April 2022 this led to the first documented nesting attempt by Merlins in Summit County. Kathy described her discovery in an article published in the Spring 2022 issue of *The Ohio Cardinal*, the quarterly publication of the Ohio Ornithological Society. North of Knox County, they have so far only been confirmed Ohio breeders in Lake County. Join us as Kathy shares photos taken during these 5 years and countless

hours of observation, culminating in this nesting attempt. Due to abandonment, most likely due to harassment by crows and the probable subsequent selection of an unknown site, she was not able to confirm fledging in 2022. But she hopes to explain why she finds these birds so remarkable, and why she will remain a willing victim of their magical spell as she tries again to document nesting in 2023.

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsfuGrqT8uHt3jS6zdlJqrV-Zn8ih0mwPT](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/91621505207?pwd=ZkFhYkZjZGZlTGZkdjRmRjR0bVpRPT09) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to join the meeting.

*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.*

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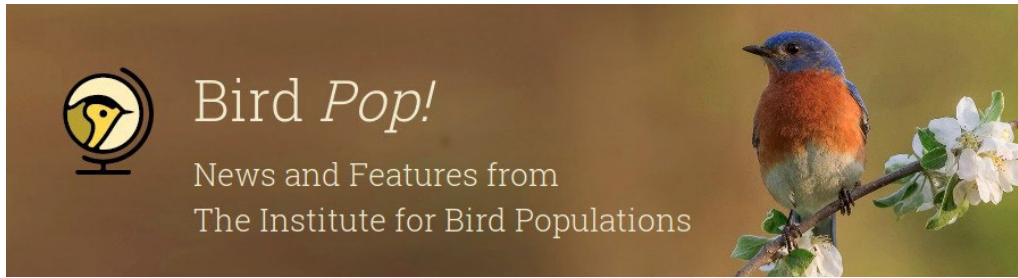
**BSBO Proudly Introduces  
Birds at Home Virtual Learning Series**



**Hammer Heads: The Wonderful World of Woodpeckers**  
**Presented by Black Swamp Bird Observatory Staff**  
**Saturday, November 26, 2022 7:00 p.m.**

Observant, bold, and personable, woodpeckers are one of the first group of birds to enter our lives and inhabit our yards. Woodpeckers often begin our journey into bird identification with their recognizable shape and behavior, and their resident nature keeps them close to our homes for year-round observation (sometimes a little too close!) This workshop will explore the woodpeckers that call the Midwest home, offering identification tips, clarification on some of those odd names, and ways to attract these charismatic birds to your yard. And if home repair isn't in your budget, we'll offer some advice for keeping these carpenters away from your siding! Free for BSBO members; \$5.00 for non-members.

Register in advance on Eventbrite: [Birds at Home: Hammer Heads - The Wonderful World](#)



**A Walk Through the New Edition of the ID Guide with Peter Pyle**  
**Thursday, December 1, 2022 2:00 p.m. (Online)**



IBP biologist Peter Pyle will walk us through the new (2nd) edition of his book, ***The Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part 1***, which is coming out in December.

An important change from the first (1997) edition is the presentation of revised and consistent molt and plumage terminology, including designations of preformative molts and formative plumages, along with inclusion of "WRP" age and plumage codes (in addition to BBL age codes) that reflect this terminology. Terminology is now consistent for all North American birds treated in Parts 1 and 2. Other changes include the addition of 21 new species accounts, presentation of measurements in tables for greater ease of comparison, and inclusion of exposed culmen, tarsus, and mass values for each species and sex, and for many subspecies. Fifteen new figures have been added, many of which emphasize "molt clines" for ageing. Information has been substantially revised through evaluation of digital images, comments received from hundreds of users since 1997, and the incorporation of over 1,295 additional scientific papers and on-line resources. Finally, recognition of subspecies has been overhauled in an attempt to provide a consistent and practical taxonomy. Much has been learned since 1997 and this revised edition reflects the progress that has been made! Registration is required: [Signup Form](#)

[constantcontactpages.com](http://constantcontactpages.com)

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The Power of Individual Action:

# A Conversation with Christian Cooper

Thursday, Dec. 1

3 PM EST/12 PM PST



Christian Cooper is the host and a consulting producer for the upcoming National Geographic series *Extraordinary Birders*. He served as president of the Harvard Ornithological Club in his college days and currently is a vice president of New York City Audubon, where he advocates for greater, safer access to green spaces for all, with a focus on outreach to youth in underserved communities. His memoir, *Better Living Through Birding*, is forthcoming from Random House in May 2023.

BirdNote is teaming up with Christian Cooper, ardent advocate for birds and safe birding, for a one-of-a-kind online event made specially for their audience. If you're passionate about birds and the future of conservation, join BirdNote for a conversation to learn how YOU can become a powerful champion in the movement to protect nature.

This free online event will feature a discussion between Cooper and Nick Bayard, BirdNote's Executive Director, and will kick off their year-end fundraiser. Towards the end of the event, the hosts will be asking attendees to contribute to BirdNote's mission of sharing the joy and wonder of birds and inspiring people to take steps to protect them. This event will be recorded and available on BirdNote's website after the event. To register for the live event, see [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

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## **Bird Feeding: Are You Smarter Than Squirrels?**

**Sunday, December 11, 2022 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Liberty Park Nature Center**

**9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087**

Join a naturalist with Summit Metro Parks to learn the basics of bird feeding! What seed and feeder types are best to use? Tips for identifying common winter birds will be offered.

Learn about Project FeederWatch and how to outsmart the squirrels.

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## **Bird Walks**

**Woodpeckers of Wood Hollow**

**Saturday, December 3, 2022 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Wood Hollow Metro Park**

**2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson, OH 44236**

Join a naturalist with Summit Metro Parks to learn about woodpeckers' unique lives and explore along Downy Loop Trail to look for some of these beautiful birds that call the area home. Discover how a woodpecker can hold onto a tree trunk without falling off, or why they peck on trees.

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**Bird Watching for Beginners**

**Saturday, December 10, 2022 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Boston Mill Visitor Center**

**6947 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264**

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.

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## News You Can Use

### 2022 GAAS Wild Bird Seed Sale Was Successful!



A heartfelt *thank you* goes out to all who purchased seed and/or donated to our chapter during this annual fund raiser. The net income as a result of the effort was \$1811.45. These funds not only support the operating expenses of our chapter, but also help to support educational outreach efforts to the public, with an emphasis on school-age children. In addition, through the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), we collaboratively partner (along with seven other Ohio Audubon chapters) with two research stations in Nicaragua through the MoSI (Monitoring Neotropical Migrants in Winter) program. For more information on MoSI and IBP, see [IBP - MoSI Program \(birdpop.org\)](https://birdpop.org). In addition to monetary donations, our local flock of National Audubon Society relies on volunteers to actively engage in protecting birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow.



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## Update on the Gorge Dam Removal



Gorge Dam File Photo: Summit Metro Parks

For anyone interested in the process of the removal of the Gorge Dam but did not attend the public meeting held on October 31, 2022, you may be interested in watching a recording of the presentation by the various organizations involved ([Free the Falls Public Meeting - October 31st, 2022 - YouTube](#)). Of key interest may be the discussion of the sediment disposal area in Cascade Valley Metro Park, beginning at 25:38 on the recording. A 30-acre area off of Peck Road, near the Chuckery Trail, will soon be cleared in preparation for the future deposition of the sediments that will be removed from behind the dam. The recording summarizes all the work done to date as well as the tentative timelines for the sediment dredging, transport and remediation, as well as the actual dam removal. The Highbridge Trail will be used as the piping route for the transport of the sediments and will therefore be closed to public use for about 2 years beginning in 2024 if all remains according to schedule. If you are interested in receiving ongoing updates about the progress of the dam's removal or would like to understand the process better, please visit Summit Metro Parks' *Free the Falls* page: [Free the Falls: A project of Summit Metro Parks and its partners](#).

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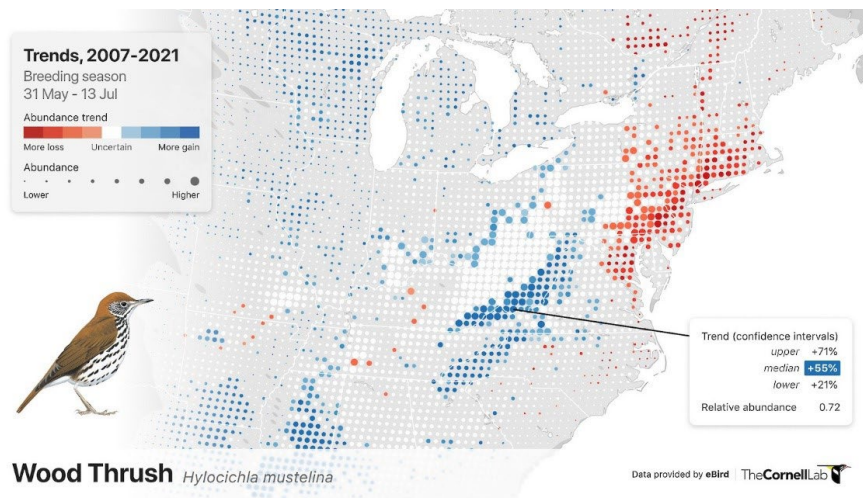
## A Birder to the Very End...



Photo Credits: Inset: A recent photo of Dave at an 80th birthday celebration taken by his friend Hillary Smith. Landscape: The skyline at the Harvey Monroe Hall Natural Area where Dave studied birds for over 30 years. Photo by Bob Wilkerson.

Dave DeSante, the founder of the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), the MAPS program and other important bird research initiatives, passed away on October 18, 2022 at age 80. Dave passed suddenly and peacefully while doing one of his favorite things – pursuing a sighting of a vagrant bird, which in this case was an ultra-rare Willow Warbler that showed up in Marin County. Dave was a true visionary whose passion and drive inspired the entire staff at IBP – and many others – to study and conserve bird populations. Read some shared remembrances of him at [Remembering Dave DeSante \(birdpop.org\)](https://birdpop.org).

## An Amazing New Tool: eBird Trends Maps from The Cornell Lab



Wood Thrushes are increasing in blue areas and declining in red areas. This new information is crucial for making conservation



decisions.

The previous issue of ***For the Birds***, brought news about the [U.S. State of the Birds](#) report. Now, The Cornell Lab has recently introduced a new tool called eBird Trends maps “that helps define trends happening to specific birds in specific areas. The maps help reveal local changes in bird abundance over the past 15 years. For example, Wood Thrush numbers have declined over the past half century, but the eBird Trends map above paints a more complex picture of recent breeding population changes: some areas show declines while others show increases. At resolutions as small as a 27 x 27 km (16.7 x 16.7 miles) region, the eBird Trends maps can show precisely where research is urgently needed to examine drivers of population declines, as well where conservation measures appear to be working and could be replicated. The maps also show changes in bird abundance during different parts of a bird’s life cycle—a critical component that until now has been missing. Seeing how bird abundance changes during different times of the year can help scientists untangle how factors on the breeding or nonbreeding grounds could affect a species.” See more about the release of this tool at [Trends maps - eBird Science](#) or use the tool to discover how species are doing anywhere in the world at [Wood Thrush - Abundance map - eBird Status and Trends](#).

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**Now playing at *The NIGHTLIGHT* in Akron Through 11/22/22  
30 N High St., Akron, OH 44308**



“The first movie to win the Best Documentary prize at both Sundance and Cannes, this much-praised new film is set amid civil unrest and environmental degradation in populous, polluted New Delhi. There, two brothers devote their lives to protecting the endangered black kite, a majestic bird of prey essential to the city’s ecosystem.”

“Against the darkening backdrop of New Delhi’s apocalyptic air and escalating violence, two brothers devote their lives to protecting one casualty of the turbulent times: the bird known as the black kite.”

From HBO’s website, “*All That Breathes*, directed by Shaunak Sen follows two brothers who run a bird hospital dedicated to rescuing injured black kites, a staple in the skies of New Delhi, India. In one of the world’s most populated cities, where cows, rats, monkeys, frogs, and hogs jostle cheek-by-jowl with people, the ‘Kite Brothers’ care for thousands of these mesmerizing creatures that drop daily from New Delhi’s smog-choked skies. As environmental toxicity and civil unrest escalate, the relationship between this family and the neglected kites forms a poetic chronicle of the city’s collapsing ecology and deepening social fault lines...

(A Submarine Deluxe and Sideshow Release in association with HBO Documentary Films; a Kiterabbit Films and Rise Films production in collaboration with HHMI Tangled Bank Studios.)” Watch the trailer here: [The Nightlight - All That Breathes \(agileticketing.net\)](https://www.agileticketing.net) The film also premieres on HBO in 2023: [www.hbo.com/movies/all-that-breathes](http://www.hbo.com/movies/all-that-breathes).

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022 6:30 p.m.**  
**Towpath Tennis Lodge**  
**2108 Akron Peninsula Rd., Akron, OH 44313**



According to StrongTowns.org, “a form-based code puts the emphasis on making sure the buildings in a neighborhood are compatible with their surroundings, while letting the mix of actual activities in them be more eclectic. This concept played a key role in the discussions during the Merriman Valley Master Planning discussion this past summer.

How will this affect Valley development, businesses, citizens and visitors to the Merriman Valley, our Gateway to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park?

Guest speakers will be Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director for Cuyahoga Falls and the City of Akron’s Daniel DeAngelo, City Planner and Architect, in the Office of Integrated Development Department of Planning and Urban Development. Both cities, along with Peninsula have passed resolutions declaring they are Gateway Communities to the National Park.

After the presentations, the public is invited to ask questions and join the conversation.

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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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org)

**\*Please note:** December’s only issue of ***For the Birds*** will arrive in Inboxes on December 11, 2022.

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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