



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS November Program



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**. Summit Metro Parks has been celebrating its centennial this year, and because our chapter is a partner with the Parks, we invited a representative to address our membership. Jen, a lifelong native plant gardener and bird watcher, will be talking about the Summit Metro Parks and their accomplishments during the last 100 years. She suggested we may want to preview this short YouTube video before our program:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwVYgyLZwF0>.

Please register in advance for this program at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrd-2vqjwqHdG0yJCnmXC9fKIPcer43Pj7> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to join the meeting. Hint: when registering, you may want to note the date and time of the confirmationemail so you'll be able to find it on the evening of the program.



Please note: there will be no December program

But consider coming out to join a group during our Christmas Bird Count on December 19th (see details below). Our next (virtual) program will be January 25, 2022!



Bird Walks

Owl Prowls with Summit Metro Park Naturalists

Join a naturalist for an after-dark hike to learn where to spot owls and how they survive the winter months at two upcoming programs. In each program, participants will search and listen for common owls and other night creatures. Using recordings in hopes that they respond, the naturalists will attempt to call them. For

ages 6 and up and please do not bring dogs. Please dress for the weather and bring your curiosity, patience, and a small flashlight.

Monday, November 22, 7—8:30 p.m. at Silver Creek Metro Park/Pheasant Run area, 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton, OH

Friday, December 10, 5:30—7:00 p.m. at Firestone Metro Park/Tuscarawas Meadows area, 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH

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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.



White-throated Sparrow: 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 \(wcaudubon.org\)](#)

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Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 19, 2021



Photo: R. Burns

Greater Akron Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Circle is centered in Cuyahoga Falls at the intersection of Broad and 2nd Street and is known as the Cuyahoga Falls Circle. Our circle is broken into 19 territories that have assigned leaders who are responsible for reporting the results of the count in their territory to our compiler, Mike Edgington. If you'd like to see the coverage area of the circle on a map, there is an interactive map on our website (<https://www.akronaudubon.org/cbc-territories.html>) that can be expanded to show a Google map under a color-coded territory overlay. By clicking on the binocular icon in each territory, you can see the sector number and leader's name. It is our hope (for successional planning purposes) that territory leaders will contribute notes about their territory so that, in case of an emergency or future changes in territory leadership, we are able to smoothly carry on. Such notes may include what areas or trails are more productive historically on count day or how to gain access to areas that may need permission to be on property, or how many participants are generally needed and if the area is generally covered on foot or by birding from a vehicle. Any information that would be helpful for another birder who is unfamiliar with the territory would be welcomed. Please submit these notes to info@akronaudubon.org and they will be added under the leader's name.

All birders, new or seasoned, are welcome and encouraged to participate. This long-standing tradition as part of National Audubon's citizen science data collection program is a great way to learn. Many of today's counters started as novice birders who worked with more experienced birders during past counts. Having an extra set of eyes and ears to find birds helps make the count more accurate and enjoyable and provides good learning experiences.

Again this year, all COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place to ensure everyone's health and safety: carpooling may only occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups; and masking is required if social distancing is not possible while in the field.

And if you live within the bounds of the Circle, please consider counting birds at your feeder at home. Your whole yard is your observation area. General guidelines are outlined in a cover letter and a printable checklist for submittal can be found here: [Christmas Bird Count - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#)

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Other News and Concerns

The 2021 Wild Bird Seed Sale was a success!

Thank you to everyone who bought or donated seed and/or made a donation to the chapter. The net proceeds amounted to about \$1300 and will be put to good use for conservation and education purposes. There were 66 orders totaling 6900 pounds of seed—both of which were increases over last year. And an interesting bit of trivia: Back in 2002, we had 39 customers who bought 6800 pounds of seed and that year we did not sell Songbird Choice or Peanuts.

Proposed Sherwin-Williams Headquarters to Have Glass Façade



Sherwin-Williams is expanding its presence in Cleveland by building a new headquarters near public square. The proposed building design is for a 36-story, 1 million square foot skyscraper to be built with an entirely glass façade. *Lights Out Cleveland* salvages about 4,000 dead and injured birds each year during spring and fall migrations. Reflective glass adjacent to green spaces is the major issue. Some cities and states have recently passed bird-safe building ordinances and legislation—something OBCI would like to accomplish in Ohio as well.

You can help! The “unofficial” word is that letters in support of using bird-friendly glass could persuade the final decisions, thought to be made during their next meeting on November 30th. Northeast Ohio Audubon Chapter leaders, including Greater Akron Audubon, have written to Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Planning Commission members. Individuals are also strongly encouraged to send as many letters as possible. Please find a sample letter and the addresses to send your letters on our website: [S-W Building - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#)

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### 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](mailto:pamela_barnes@nps.gov)), CVNP Community Engagement Supervisor/Public Information Officer or to the CVNP Park Superintendent ([cva\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:cva_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!

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### A New Bird Discovered?



The newly described Inti Tanager. Photo by Ryan Terrill

***Birdwatching Daily*** has just reported that a team from Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science has discovered not only a new species but a new genus as well. The bird was described in a [recent paper](#) in the journal *Ornithology* and was named Inti Tanager (*Heliotraupis oneilli*). The species breeds in a deciduous forest in Bolivia during the rainy season, which runs from November to March, and spends the dry season dispersed along the lower slopes of the Andes in Peru, occupying bamboo-dominated habitats. Read about the fascinating details of its discovery from when it was first sighted in 2000 in Peru to the discovery of a breeding population in 2011 to the collection of genetic material in 2019: [New tanager species described from Bolivia, Peru - BirdWatching \(birdwatchingdaily.com\)](#)

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### Could National Audubon Society Also Be Getting a Name Change?

Listen to a short story from NPR about a Maryland Audubon chapter that recently decided to change its name because of the racist past of John James Audubon. [Maryland Audubon Group Changes Name Due To Namesake's Racist Past : NPR One](#)

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## Climate Change is Transforming Amazonian Birds

Seventy species of birds studied in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil over the last 40 years have been found to weigh less and have simultaneously developed longer wingspans. With wetter rainy seasons and drier dry seasons and warmer temperatures in both seasons, “The relationship between body size and climate change is correlational, naturally,” said Mario Cohn-Haft, an ornithologist with Brazil’s National Institute of Amazonian Research who wasn’t involved in the paper, in an email. ‘But both several-decade long trends and year to year trends are demonstrated here with a monstrous amount of data to support them.’”

Overall, the findings echo those of another major study of birds from 2019 that looked at 70,716 individual birds from 52 migratory species that died after slamming into skyscrapers in Chicago over roughly the same 40-year timespan. That research found that those birds’ lower leg bones, which are commonly used as indicators of body size, shrank by 2.4 percent on average and their wingspans increased by 1.3 percent on average.

The article from Smithsonian Magazine [Climate Change Is Transforming the Bodies of Amazonian Birds | Science | Smithsonian Magazine](#) goes on to quote Dr. Ben Winger, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Michigan, who co-authored the 2019 study: ‘Our study raised questions about whether our findings were due to warming or if they were adaptations to changing migratory patterns ...But the birds in this study aren’t migrating, which speaks to this being a more universal phenomenon. To me, it suggests that there is no hiding from warming temperatures.’

*It is interesting to note that Dr. Winger grew up in northeast Ohio and was mentored by local members of the Kirtland Bird Club and spoke to KBC in an earlier (April) virtual presentation this year.*

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## National Audubon Society Announces Dr. Elizabeth Gray as CEO

*Dr. Gray, a scientist and ornithologist will be the first woman to hold the CEO title in the organization’s 116 year history. Read about last Wednesday’s announcement here: [National Audubon Society Announces Dr. Elizabeth Gray as CEO | Audubon](#)*



Dr. Gray sent this message Wednesday evening:

Although you have heard from me a few times as acting CEO, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit more about myself and how I see the work ahead.

Joining Audubon has been a homecoming for me. Birds bring me so much joy and our mission is close to my heart because my career in conservation started with birds.

I began by studying homing pigeon navigation as an undergraduate and then spent time in eastern Washington State studying Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds for my doctoral thesis work. When the Yellow-headed Blackbirds did not return to their breeding marshes my second field season, I knew something wasn’t right. This moment was my personal wake-up call and I decided to devote my career to conservation.

As a scientist and ornithologist, I have committed my life to working with communities and partners at the local, state, national and international levels to protect the planet. I joined Audubon from The Nature Conservancy, where I served in a variety of leadership roles, most recently as Global Managing Director for Climate. I have spent thirty years in conservation—much of it in the field working directly on science-based conservation projects.

One of the most exciting things about Audubon is all of you—our grassroots network—no other organization can match the passion and power you bring to bird conservation. Birds are a uniting force, bringing together communities across the hemisphere. I cannot wait to work with you to advance our mission.

I find that building partnerships makes work better and more equitable. During the past six months as acting CEO, and alongside staff working groups, the Network Team, and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Jamaal Nelson, I prioritized the advancement of Audubon's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, including white allyship training, BIPOC community-building support, transition guidelines for transgender staff, and an increased paid time off policy. Through grants, consultant support, peer-to-peer learning, and online training we are advancing EDI efforts across our chapter network.

Listening to local leadership is important to me, so in the last six months, I have elevated leadership from the field to the Executive Team. I have also begun to elevate Audubon's profile and the importance of birds at significant climate events like NYC Climate Week and the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow (otherwise known as COP26). To support all of the important work that we do, I have also focused on fundraising and to date have raised several million dollars to advance our mission.

Moving forward I will be in touch to gather your input into our next strategic plan where we will align our work to protect birds and the places they need through three interwoven pillars: Climate; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging; and Hemispheric Conservation.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out. I would love to hear from you.

Warmly,

Elizabeth Gray, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Audubon Society

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**Please note:** There will be only one issue of *For the Birds* in December. Look for the next e-news to arrive **Sunday, December 12, 2021**

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### **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](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org) with your contact info.

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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](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

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