



## Upcoming Programs and Events

People hunt for many different reasons. Free-range protein, an intimate connection with nature, and management of wildlife populations are a few of the core themes echoed by hunters. However, there are a myriad of reasons why hunting is important to wildlife conservation around the globe. Join **Jamey Emmert and Ken Fry, communication specialists with the Ohio Division of Wildlife**, to discuss hunting in Ohio, why and how hunters pursue wildlife, and how hunting strongly supports the Buckeye State's economy and the protection of its vital natural resources. This is an excellent opportunity to ask

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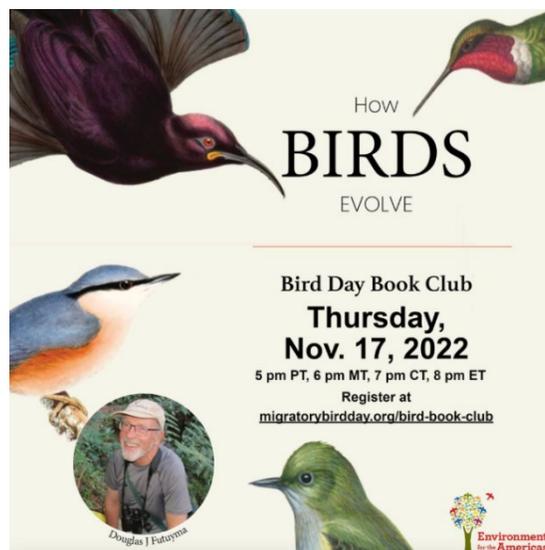
questions, share thoughts, and discuss hunting to gain a broader understanding of what it is all about.

This presentation is part of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Conservation Awareness series. The goal of the series is to build awareness on topics that affect our environment and the communities in which we live, allowing us to be better stewards in protecting and preserving our natural resources. Register here: [Conservation Awareness: Hunting – Western Reserve Land Conservancy \(wrlandconservancy.org\)](https://www.wrlandconservancy.org/conservation-awareness-hunting)

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**November Book Club Discussion (Online)**  
**Featuring Author Douglas J. Futuyma,**  
**How Birds Evolve: What Science Reveals About Their Origin, Lives and**  
**Diversity**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2022 8:00 p.m.**



Futuyma, an evolutionary biologist who is also a birder, explains in his 2021 book how evolutionary biology helps us better understand birds and their natural history, and how the study of birds has informed all aspects of evolutionary science since Darwin's time. This isn't an easy read but it's certain to inform a curious birder. Register to attend the live session with the author and an EFTA moderator: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

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**Snowy Owls: Ghosts from the North**  
**Saturday, November 19, 2022 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Liberty Park Nature Center**  
**9999 Liberty Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087**



Snowy Owl in Wayne County, Ohio Feb. 2014 Photo: Bob Burns

Join a naturalist to learn about the majestic bird of winter: the Snowy Owl. Discover how it survives its Arctic home, yet sometimes visits Ohio, and how Project Snowstorm sheds light on the bird's behavior.

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**GAAS November Program Meeting (Online)**  
**Kathy Mock**  
**The Magic of Merlins**  
**Tuesday, November 22, 2022 7:00 p.m.**

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**Portage Lakes State Park**  
**5031 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH 44319**

Join Brian Tinker and Ned DeLamatre and other members of Greater Akron Audubon Society as they scan Turkeyfoot Lake for migrating waterfowl and check nearby fields for winter visitors with spotting scopes. Enter at Portage Lakes State Park sign and drive all the way down the entrance road until you reach the back parking lot near the beach. Park in the back right corner. Binoculars are recommended.

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**Wildlife Resources: Waterfowl**  
**Friday, November 18, 2022 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Nimisila Reservoir, Lot C4**  
**5550 Christman Rd., Green, OH 44141**

Join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist and an ODNR wildlife specialist to discuss the value of duck hunting at Nimisila Reservoir. Explore the ecological and economic importance of hunting, then hop from lot to lot searching through spotting scopes and binoculars for migrating waterfowl.

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**Late Fall Bird Walk**  
**Sunday, November 20, 2022 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Munroe Falls Metro Park, Tallmadge Meadows Area**  
**1088 North Ave, Tallmadge, OH 44278**

Join a naturalist to learn about how our avian neighbors prepare for winter. Search for birds in the open meadow and forest edge. Binoculars and a bird guide are recommended.

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**Owl Prowl**  
**Sunday, November 20, 2022 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Silver Creek Metro Park, Pheasant Run Area**  
**5000 Hametown Rd., Norton, OH 44203**

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Join a naturalist for an evening hike in search of owls. Learn some common owl calls, where to spot them and how they survive during the colder months. (Good for Hiking Spree credit.)

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## News You Can Use

### An Unlikely Rare Hybrid Bird Documented in Western Pennsylvania

Back in June 2020 a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania-area birder heard a Scarlet Tanager singing in a western Lawrence County wooded location near his home (just east of Mahoning County, Ohio and about 70 miles due east of Akron). Hoping to get a photo, he located the bird but it appeared to be a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. According to researchers at the Penn State University, the National Aviary and the University of Pittsburgh, the bird was actually a one-year-old male hybrid whose mother was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and father was a Scarlet Tanager. What makes the find even more perplexing is that the two species have very different nesting habitats: the Rose-breasted Grosbeak tends to nest along the open edges of woodlands while Scarlet Tanagers prefer mature forest canopies. The researchers' findings, including photos, song analyses and DNA evidence, were published in July 2022 in the journal *Ecology and Evolution* ([Genetic confirmation of a hybrid between two highly divergent cardinalid species: A rose-breasted grosbeak \(Pheucticus ludovicianus\) and a scarlet tanager \(Piranga olivacea\) - Toews - 2022 - Ecology and Evolution - Wiley Online Library](#)). The story made news on the local ([Songbird hybrid discovered by birdwatcher in western Pa. | 90.5 WESA](#)) and national ([A Rare Hybrid Bird Sheds Light On Evolution's "Mistakes" : Short Wave : NPR](#)) levels of National Public Radio. This discovery is yet another example of why we can't always rely solely on *Merlin Bird ID* to identify a bird!

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### Good News: California Condors Released by Yurok Tribe in Northern California

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Have a listen to this 12-minute clip about the near-extinction of the California Condor and how the Yurok Tribe is instrumental in re-introducing them to Northern California skies after an absence of over 100 years: [The Quest To Save The California Condor : Short Wave : NPR](#) Four to six birds will continue to be released over the next 20 years and the Yurok Tribe will continue to monitor them. Catch a glimpse of the released birds (called *Prey-goneesh* by the Yurok) on the live stream that the Yurok Tribe maintains at its facility near Redwoods National Park in California: [Yurok Condor Live Feed | Yurok Tribe](#).

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## **Wheelchairs Available to Take on Trails at Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

In a recent news item in the Akron Beacon Journal, it was announced that loaner wheelchairs are available (on a first come, first-served basis) at the Boston Mill Visitor Center and Canal Exploration Center for visitors to use on accessible trails. By calling the phone number posted in the accessible parking spaces at these two locations, someone will come out with a wheelchair. The park also has audio descriptions of exhibits and the park map for people who are blind or have low vision. Microphones or sign language interpreters are also available by request for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. An accessibility coordinator is also available to help plan a visit. Visit the park's accessibility page for more information: [Accessibility - Cuyahoga Valley National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

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## ***State of the Birds Report Reveals Widespread Bird Losses But Points to Hope of Reversing those Trajectories***

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The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) is a coalition of 29 federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and bird-focused partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation. The coalition and other leading conservation organizations recently released the first look at the nation's birds since a landmark 2019 study showed the loss of 3 billion birds in the U.S. and Canada in 50 years. The report used five sources of data, including the North American Breeding Bird Survey and the [Audubon Christmas Bird Count](#), to track the health of breeding birds in habitats across the United States. In the report, we learn that:

- More than half of U.S. bird species are declining.
- U.S. grassland birds are among the fastest declining with a 34% loss since 1970.
- 70 newly identified Tipping Point species have each lost 50% or more of their populations in the past 50 years, and are on a track to lose another half in the next 50 years if nothing changes.
- Successful collaborative efforts over the course of five decades to restore and protect wetland-dependent species has caused waterbirds and ducks in the U.S. to increase by 18% and 34% respectively during the same period.

In a press release from **Audubon Great Lakes**, Dr. Amanda Rodewald, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Center for Avian Population Studies, is quoted: 'The rapid declines in birds signal the intensifying stresses that wildlife and people alike are experiencing around the world because of habitat loss, environmental degradation and extreme climate events. Taking action to bring birds back delivers a cascade of benefits that improve climate resilience and quality of life for people. When we restore forests, for example, we sequester carbon, reduce fire intensity, and create habitat for plants and animals. By greening cities, we provide heat relief, increase access to recreation, and create refuge for migrating birds.'

And from the **American Bird Conservancy's** president, Mike Parr, 'Everyone can make a difference to help turn declines around. Everyone with a window can use simple solutions to prevent collisions. Everyone can help green their neighborhood and avoid using pesticides that harm birds. Everyone who lives in a neighborhood can bring the issues and solutions to their community and use their voice to take action.'

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To view the report and a discussion of findings and how it serves to direct future conservation efforts, see

[State of the Birds 2022](#)



King Rail Photo: Robert Gundy/Audubon Photography Awards

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TheCornellLab of Ornithology



## Project FeederWatch

### What Is Project FeederWatch?

Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. **You don't even need a feeder!** All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water or food that attracts birds. **The schedule is completely flexible.** Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance. Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants. The annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). Canadians can participate by donating any amount to Birds Canada. These contributions cover materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (Winter Bird Highlights). Without the support of its participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

As a program that engages participants across the US and Canada, its organizers strive to ensure that Project FeederWatch is accessible and welcoming to every person. Please

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read the full statements from the [Cornell Lab](#) and [Birds Canada](#). FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. Project FeederWatch, 35 years and over 20,000 participants strong this year, is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Since 2016, Project FeederWatch has been sponsored by Wild Bird Unlimited.

Read about the history of Project FeederWatch, why it's important, how the data are used, meet the staff who run the program, or join here: [Project Overview - FeederWatch](#)

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## Did you Know?



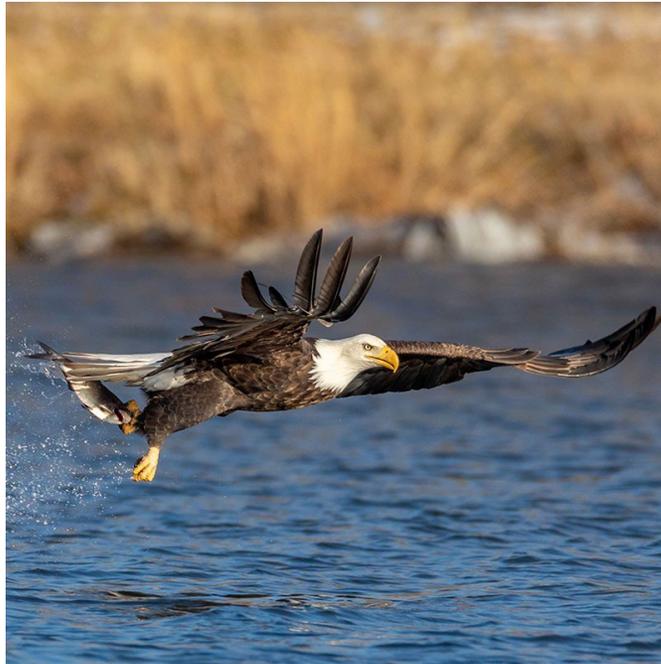
Non-breeding adult Eared Grebe Photo: Photo: Richard Mittleman/Alamy

The Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*, is flightless for nine to ten months of the year. Generally a western species, the birds stage in the saline lakes of the western U.S. like Mono Lake in California or Great Salt Lake in Utah, where they fatten up on brine shrimp before heading further south along the Pacific Ocean where they give up flying for extended periods during which time their flight muscles shrink and their digestive organs grow. They don't hibernate but eat and store their calories with high efficiency. This flightless period is the longest that any bird in the world is incapable of flight. In the spring, the process reverses itself to allow them to fly (only at night) to breeding grounds to ensure successful reproduction. The more well-fed they are, the better their success at raising their broods of one to eight chicks.

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## Birds Can't Vote, But You Can!



Bald Eagle Photo: Nick Stroot/Audubon Photography Awards

In addition to federal races, state and local elections happening nationwide will have a big impact on our communities and our birds. These decision makers have an important influence on the ways that laws are written and enacted at every level of government. The best way to protect birds and the places they need is to make sure that you vote on or before Election Day on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

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## Gearing up for the 123<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Bird Count!



Photo: Camilla Cerea/Audubon

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National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count circles are now "live" in preparation for the **123<sup>rd</sup> year** of community science. This year, Greater Akron Audubon Society welcomes a new CBC compiler: Daniel Toth. Because this is his first year, we ask for your patience as Dan gets familiarized with the various requirements imposed by National Audubon Society and the local territory areas and their leaders.

Now is the time to start making plans to participate in our chapter's CBC circle, OHCF, 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! Paul Moser will be sub-compiling the feeder counts; if you have questions or plan to do a feeder count, please contact Paul at [pmoser16590@yahoo.com](mailto:pmoser16590@yahoo.com). If you've never participated or would like to be re-assigned to another territory leader, please email [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org) so that Dan can find a suitable area for you. To learn more about our circle, please see [Christmas Bird Count - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#).

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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 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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