



## Upcoming Programs and Events

### Waterfowl Photography: From the Duck's Eye View

Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Virtual Learning Series, *Birds at Home*, will present this one-hour program on **Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** Brian Zwiebel of Sabrewing Nature Tours will take attendees through the process he uses to produce stunning duck portraits without an overload of photo technical jargon. Learn how to best capture waterfowl action and behavior in your own photography; what exposure modes are best; and why wind direction is important in waterfowl photography. Each talking point is supported by Brian's award-winning photography. To register, [BIRDS AT HOME - BSBO](#)

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### Land Preservation: Options to Development



**PRESERVE THE VALLEY.COM**  
CITIZEN ACTION GROUP



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.

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## Owls for Adults



Barred Owl: R.Burns

Join this Summit Metro Parks **virtual program** on **Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** to explore the fascinating world of owls. Learn some of our common species of owls, the sounds they make, where to spot them, and how they survive during the colder winter months. <https://zoom.us/join> Key in the meeting ID number: 835 7741 7539

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## Bird Walks

Join a naturalist with Summit Metro Parks at the **Valley View** area of Cascade Valley Metro Park (**1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH**) on **Thursday, November 11th from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.** to discover avian species along the banks of the Cuyahoga River. Binoculars and drinking water are recommended and be prepared for limited access to park amenities.



Ring-necked Duck (male): R. Burns

It's beginning to look like waterfowl are moving. Join GAAS bird walk coordinator Ned DeLamatre at the **Summit Lake Nature Center (411 Ira Ave., Akron, OH) on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 -- 10:00 a.m.** to see what species may have flown in.

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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 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 \(wcaudubon.org\)](#)

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## GAAS November Program

Our November program will be held *virtually* on **Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 confirmation email so you'll be able to find it on the evening of the program.



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## Other Concerns

### Proposed Sherwin-Williams Headquarters to have Glass Façade

Matt Shumar, of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative, addressed the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters during the virtually held October 16<sup>th</sup> Fall Gathering. Paraphrased from his brief presentation is the following:

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.

Until such legislation is reality, we need to work with architects and City planners to ensure that new construction is safe for migratory wildlife. If we truly care about bird conservation, we need to address threats during the entire annual life cycle of migratory birds. Not only are habitats on breeding and overwintering grounds important; we must focus on threats during migration as well.

The “unofficial” word is that letters in support of using bird-friendly glass could persuade the final decisions. Chapters and individuals are encouraged to send as many **letters** as possible to Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Planning Commission members stressing the importance of including bird-safe glass in the construction of this building. Names and addresses to send letters to are here: [Addresses-for-Ltrs-re-Bird-Friendly-SW.docx \(live.com\)](#) Mailed letters make more of an impact on our public officials. We want to keep our messages positive in tone so that Sherwin-Williams will be considered a leader in good bird conservation and a possible prototype for future legislative action in Ohio. A sample letter you may want to use is forthcoming and will soon be posted on the GAAS website under the News tab (<https://www.akronaudubon.org/news.html>) Cleveland and Lake Erie are in the Mississippi Flyway North, a major migration route for birds that connects their northern breeding grounds to their southern overwintering grounds. Chapter leaders from northeast Ohio will be sending letters directly to Sherwin-Williams and possibly holding a meeting with their leaders. If you are interested in the subject, here are two good resources about bird-safe glass and bird-glass collisions:

An informative article about bird-friendly glass appeared in *Business Insider* in July 2020 ([‘Bird-Safe’ Glass That Prevents Collisions Is Finally Catching on \(businessinsider.com\)](#)).

And in the latest issue of the *Birding Community e-Bulletin* a book about the glass and bird collision issue is highly praised and recommended: ***Solid Air – Invisible Killer: Saving Billions of Birds from Windows*** (2021, Hancock House) by Daniel Klem, Professor of Ornithology and Conservation Biology at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. The book’s contents progress from how birds see, to the enormity of the glass-impact problem, to the sad autopsies of the victims, and the seriousness of convincing the public about the extent of the problem. It’s a must-read for anyone concerned about the glass-and-bird subject and educating the public.

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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 ([cuva\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto: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!

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### **Save the Date for our Christmas Bird Count! December 19, 2021**

Did you know that Greater Akron's Christmas Circle started in 1939? With the exception of 1949, the count has been held continuously since then. In 1949, the Count did not cover the required 8 hours because of heavy rains and flooding and therefore was not submitted as an official Christmas Bird Count. A complete history of all Counts can be found on our website (<https://www.akronaudubon.org/cbc-previous-years.html>), courtesy of Marie Morgan, who submitted the compilation in three useable formats. The data that can be gleaned from the historical record is compelling. For instance, did you know that Canada Goose did not appear on the count until 1953, when 22 were counted and that as many as 6622 were counted in 2017?

Due to National Audubon Society CBC Guidelines, we must wait until November 15<sup>th</sup> to officially declare that our count will be held. Due to COVID protocols and guidelines, each circle's Count was given an opportunity to put on hiatus again this year if participants and/or compilers felt uncomfortable.

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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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