



Upcoming Programs and Events

Summit Metro Parks Program (Virtual)

Winter Bird ID

Monday, December 11, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.



Learn about winter birds from the comfort of your own home. A naturalist will talk about identification, appreciation and how to support our avian neighbors during the winter months. To join via Zoom, use <https://Zoom.us/join> and key in Meeting ID number [485 730 2450](#)



Cornell Lab Smorgasbord: A Feast of Resources for Educators!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a whole menu of amazing resources for educators, including some you may have missed! Come get a taste for what the Lab has to offer. A sampling of available resources in the form of online interactive, videos and other fun resources will be presented from the Center for Conservation Bioacoustics, the Macaulay Library, Bird Academy, and more, and they'll be tied to K-12 Resources and ways to implement them in the classroom. Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



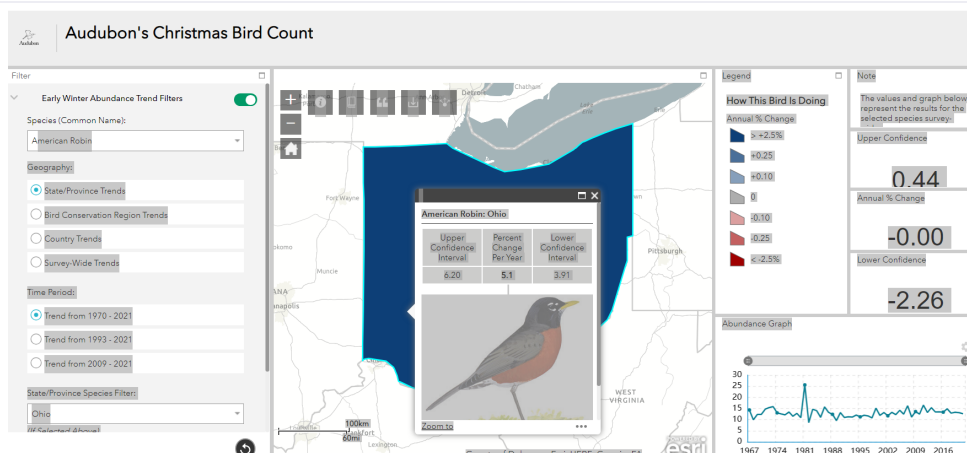
Summit Metro Parks Program

Birds & Community Science

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Join a naturalist and a representative from the Greater Akron Audubon Society to celebrate our resident and migratory birds this winter! Learn fun facts about common



Summit Metro Parks Program

Bird Nerds: Winter Specials

Saturday, December 16, 2023 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are invited to join a naturalist to explore a new group of birds each month of 2023. Adaptations, behavior, identification and more will be discussed indoors and, after the presentation, join in a hike to try to find some of Ohio's special winter birds.



Summit Metro Parks Program

Winter Bird Adaptations

Saturday, December 30, 2023 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Some birds migrate when the weather gets cold, but a few stay with us all year! Join a naturalist to learn how birds stay warm in the freezing temperatures and try your hand at feeding them.

Summit Metro Parks Program

Coffee With the Birds

Saturday, January 6, 2024 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Liberty Park Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087



Join a naturalist to see which birds visit our viewing area. Bring a mug and your bird questions — we'll provide warm beverages and birding insights. Make it a "bird-iful" day: Hand feed the chickadees or stay to help count birds for Project Feeder Watch.

Summit Metro Parks Program

Bird Feeders 101

Saturday, January 6, 2024 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



It's National Bird Day! Well, almost. Join a naturalist to learn about the types of bird food and feeders you can use in your Wild Back Yard, and the birds they might attract.

Bird Walks

Summit Metro Parks

Downy Woodpecker Hike

Thursday, December 14, 2023 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Wood Hollow Metro Park

2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson, OH 44236



© Doug Swartz | Macaulay Library

Female Downy Woodpecker from AllAboutBirds.org

Enjoy a wintry walk on the 1.2-mile Downy Loop Trail, where you'll join a naturalist to look for the small woodpeckers that live in the area's beech-maple woods and wetlands.

Maybe other species of woodpeckers will be seen along the way!

Summit Metro Parks

Beginner Bird Walk

Sunday, January 7, 2024 8:30 a.m.

Firestone Metro Park, Tuscarawas Meadows Area



Winter is the perfect time to get familiar with your native birds! Join a naturalist for a laid-back, no-judgment hike along Redwing Trail. Find familiar flying friends and learn skills that will help you grow in your personal birding journey.

News You Can Use

Greater Akron Audubon Society

Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 17, 2023



With the count day only one week away, most of the areas within the GAAS circle now have some coverage. If you've responded to compiler Dan Toth or to info@akronaudubon.org about this year's count but have not heard back from anyone about an assignment, please reach out again to info@akronaudubon.org and leave a phone number so we can get in touch. Dan's work responsibilities as a biologist at Summit Metro Parks take priority over his compiler duties and we're trying to coordinate birders' offers to help with those areas that need help. If you do participate, you should know who your area leader is and have his/her contact information as well as specific guidance as to what locales you'll be counting in. Prompt submittal of field checklists and field and participant data by all is also appreciated! *Why wait until late January to turn in a checklist?!*

If you live within the circle's area, please consider submitting a feeder count at your property. Tips on how to best count birds throughout the day at your feeders are covered here: [cbc-feedercoverletter2023.pdf \(akronaudubon.org\)](https://akronaudubon.org/cbc-feedercoverletter2023.pdf) and the official checklist to submit is here: [2023 Feeder Checklist \(akronaudubon.org\)](https://akronaudubon.org/2023-Feeder-Checklist). Counts can be done any time during the 24-hour period on December 17th so if you hear an owl during early morning or later evening hours during the count day, those species count!

Our chapter could also use some updated photos of CBC participants and/or birds taken during the count that display the spirit of the count. If you'd care to share any photos taken during the count day, please submit them directly to info@akronaudubon.org with details and permission to use them in the future.

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**Wild Birds Unlimited and the  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Announce 2024 BirdSpotter Photo Contest!**

The **Cornell Lab** of Ornithology



Get your cameras ready, it's time for BirdSpotter! The Cornell Lab and Wild Birds Unlimited are teaming up to give you a great way to share your photos and win prizes.

**Enter your favorite photo from now until February 4th** (one entry per person). Ten favorites will be selected and then online voting will begin February 19 and extend through March 18, 2024 to select the winners. The top three winners will receive Wild Birds Unlimited Gift Certificates and all ten top entries will receive a free Cornell Lab Bird Academy Online course.

*Note: You can submit any photo you've taken from any time, but it must be submitted by February 4th, 2024.*

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**International Crane Foundation**  
**Recorded Webinar Series**  
**Featuring**  
**Observing Nesting Whooping Cranes**  
**In Reintroduced and Remnant Populations**



International Crane Foundation's Dr. Triet Tran, Southeast Asia Program Director, and Andy Caven, Vice President of North America Programs, share stories from their time spent researching and observing birds in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park and in Baraboo, Wisconsin, providing insight into the challenges faced by Whooping Crane chicks and the resources available to their families during nesting and chick-rearing season. Spoiler Alert: Spiders, the topic of our November program presented by Dr. Sarah Rose, were a surprisingly large part of the diet fed to the chicks in the Canada location! View the recording: [Observing Nesting Whooping Cranes in Reintroduced and Remnant Populations - YouTube](#)

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**A “New” Threat: Songbird Trafficking?**

Poachers are smuggling songbirds to southeast Asia, where the birds are used in singing competitions. Recently, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums began an initiative called Saving Animals from Extinction; the North American songbird conservation movement under that umbrella is referred to as SAFE NAS. Researchers have found North American songbirds for sale in pet shops in foreign countries and advertised domestically on Facebook and Craigslist. It's not known how extensive the issue is but a technical



workshop to address the issue will be held December 11 – 14 in Bangkok, Thailand by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Although songbird trafficking to Asia has been recognized for decades, it has been only since about 2000 that conservation groups like U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have focused on domestic trafficking. Because of its geographic significance on migration pathways, Texas has become a prime area for poachers to trap the birds, many of which succumb to the stresses of capture and captivity. GAAS's Kathy Mock recently brought this article to our attention to share with readers: [Protected Texas songbirds show up in pet stores abroad, due to elusive trafficking industry \(phys.org\)](https://www.phys.org/news/2023-07-protected-texas-songbirds-show-up-in-pet-stores-abroad-due-to-elusive-trafficking-industry)

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**Attention Recent College Grads or Graduating Seniors**  
**Deadline to Apply for Aldo Leopold Fellowships**  
**Is February 1, 2024**



The Aldo Leopold Foundation's Future Leaders Program supports recent graduates in launching their conservation careers. All Leopold Fellows receive a life-enriching experience framed by [Aldo Leopold's](#) call for a respectful relationship between people and land. Leopold Fellowships are at the heart of the Future Leaders Program. This yearlong experience is designed for individuals who have recently completed their undergraduate or graduate degree. This fellowship focuses on seven core areas: conservation leadership, fundraising, applied science, natural history, partnership building, strategic planning, communication, and land ethics. These core concepts are addressed through professional development sessions, and on-the-job experiences. Leopold Fellows specialize within one of two program areas, Education & Communication or Land Stewardship. Learn more about the opportunities and apply here: [Future Leaders Program - The Aldo Leopold Foundation](#)

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**Cattle Tyrant Makes its Debut in US:**

## Birders Flocking to Corpus Christi



Cattle Tyrant: Raul Alonzo/Texas Standard

How it arrived in the United States, we'll never know for sure, but the bird was first noticed in downtown Corpus Christi on November 12<sup>th</sup> by David Essian, a postdoctoral research associate at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. The discovery has been attracting birders from all over Texas and the US ever since. There are many stories about the bird, but Paul Moser, GAAS Vice-President, submitted this one from Austin, Texas PBS station KUT. Listen to the account of the buzz this vagrant's arrival has raised.

[Why is this bird drawing people from far and wide to downtown Corpus Christi? | KUT Radio, Austin's NPR Station](#)

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**Christian Cooper Partners  
with Homegrown National Park!**

**Biodiversity is counting on YOU!**



It's been a heck of a year for birder Christian Cooper. With a **National Geographic** series (*Extraordinary Birder*) and a book (*Better Living Through Birding*) out in 2023, he's

capping off the year to lend support to a cause he believes in: spreading word about the biodiversity crisis we're in. He knows that the **Homegrown National Park** has the grass roots power to spread awareness of the urgency of the crisis and also has the potential to offer a solution that we can all be part of in our own backyards. If you are part of HNP, you probably first received an email on November 21<sup>st</sup> asking for donations to the cause. And more recently, an appeal that features Christian and Doug Tallamy has reached USPS mailboxes asking for your financial support.

GAAS still has a few HNP signs that help you let passersby know that your native plantings are intentional. We offer the signs free of charge in hopes that others will join in the movement to plant native and "light up" the HNP map. Please reach out to [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org) if you'd like a sign that lets others know that you've taken steps to shrink your lawn by planting native plants that support many species of life. We're all "nature's best hope."

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Trust for Public Land Playing a Role in Greening of America



The image shows the logo for Trust for Public Land, which consists of a stylized green and blue shield with a sun icon, followed by the text "TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND™". Below the logo is a map of the United States where the state of Ohio is highlighted in light blue. At the bottom left of the map, there is text: "Ohio In Ohio, we've preserved over 17,981 acres of open land and completed more than 133 projects." At the bottom right of the map, there is an orange button with the text "View Ohio".

Since 1972 **The Trust for Public Land** has been committed to creating and protecting more places that bring us outside—parks, trails, community forests, playgrounds, and public lands—and making them available and welcoming to all. They're driven by four commitments: equity, health, climate, and community. In many ways, their ultimate goal is similar to that of National Audubon's. In Ohio and across the country, they continue working with communities and advocates to connect more people in more places to the

outdoors. Quality parks and green spaces are fundamental for sustaining equitable, resilient communities. Access to nature and the outdoors—close to home, in the cities and communities where people live—is a matter of health, equity, and justice. They continue to partner with public and private entities across the country to create, protect, and steward the nature-rich places that are vital to human well-being. From Klamath Falls, Oregon to eight counties in Florida along the Gulf Coast Trail, their work is also made possible by member support. To date, four million acres have been protected that have connected 9.3 million people to the outdoors. And currently, there are over 150 new projects in the works at parks, trails, and schoolyards across the U.S. View how their work is making an impact across the country: [Our Work: Trust for Public Land \(tpl.org\)](https://www.trustforpublicland.org).

Warm Wishes to Everyone for this Holiday Season!



(Look for the next issue of *For the Birds* on January 7, 2024!)

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).

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](https://www.greasociety.org/meeting-archives). 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

Follow us on Instagram: @akronaudubon

Find us on Facebook: @greaterakronaudubon

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