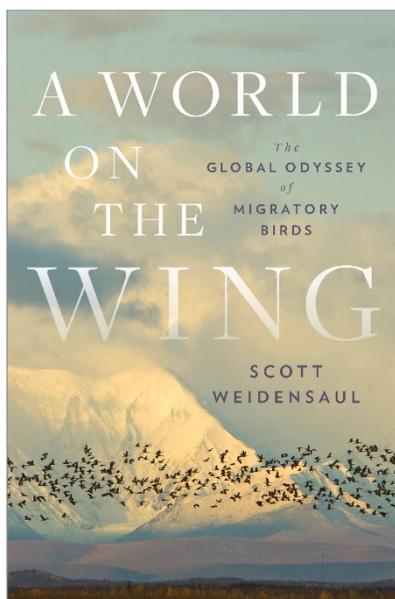




## Upcoming Programs and Events

**Monday, December 13, 2021 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Virtual Program on Zoom**  
**Audubon Miami Valley, a member chapter of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC), is presenting author and researcher Scott Weidensaul**



Based on his newest book ***A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds***, Weidensaul will take the audience around the globe to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations. Even as scientists make astounding discoveries about the navigational and physiological feat that enable migratory birds to cross immense oceans or fly above the highest mountains, go weeks without sleep or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch, humans have brought many migrants to the brink.

Weidensaul has written more than thirty books, including his widely acclaimed *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, which became a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize. He is co-director of Project OwlNet, a collaborative effort among nearly 125 banding research stations across North America studying owl migration. He is also part of a continental effort to understand the rapid evolution, by several species of western hummingbirds, of a new migratory route and wintering range in the East.

- To attend this event, <https://bit.ly/3uUe80q>
- You will need to use this pass code to enter the meeting: 424848
- If you would like to use your phone for audio during the meeting, call this number 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

This event is free and open to the public and we thank AMV for inviting us to join them.

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**Wednesday, December 15, 2021 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**The cities of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls invite the public to attend a virtual meeting to discuss the draft Merriman Valley - Schumacher Area Master Plan**



Source: Farr Associates, Artist: Bruce Bondy

Since July, the two cities and urban planning consultant Farr Associates have been working with the community to create a Master Plan for the Merriman Valley and Schumacher areas of our cities. The Master Plan is intended to guide the future of the study area in a way that reflects the goals, values, and aspirations of residents, business owners, and other stakeholders.

Farr Associates will present the highlights and recommendations of the Master Plan, including:

- Proposed Land Uses – including changes to the existing Zoning Code
- Improved Transportation Systems - streets, trails, sidewalks, and river access
- Environmental Considerations - conservation neighborhoods, habitat corridors, and riparian setbacks
- Example Development and Redevelopment Scenarios – within the study area in both Akron and Cuyahoga Falls

At the public meeting, following a presentation of the draft plan by the consultant, participants will be able to ask questions to the consultant team and city officials via the Zoom chat feature. This dialogue will be moderated by Dan Rice, President of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and Chair of the Cuyahoga Falls Planning Commission.

Those interested in attending the public meeting can sign up here to register and receive the Zoom link for the meeting: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/merriman-valley-schumacher-area-master-plan-presentation-tickets-221629107627>

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**There will be no Greater Akron Audubon Society December program meeting!**

Consider joining a group during our Christmas Bird Count on December 19<sup>th</sup> (see details below). Our next (virtual) program will be January 25, 2022! Look for the announcement about Laura Kearns' talk, **Tracking Trumpeter Swans** in the next issue of this eNews on January 9, 2022.

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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](#)

Full summaries of last year's count were released on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and can be found here: [Summary of the 121<sup>st</sup> Christmas Bird Count, 2020-2021 | Audubon](#) and a public map showing all active CBC circles for this year's count can be found here: [122<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Bird Count: Map of Active Circles \(arcgis.com\)](#)

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## Bird Walks

### **New Year's Eve Bird Walk: Friday December 31, 2021 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Join a naturalist with Summit Metro Parks to end 2021 on an avian note! Search the banks of the Cuyahoga River for resident and migratory birds, like red-breasted nuthatches, golden-crowned kinglets and waterfowl. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Meet at Burst Park at the State Route 91 Bike & Hike Lot: 130 N. Main St., Munroe Falls, OH 44262

### **Winter Bird Walkabout: Monday, January 03, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

Start your birding year off with a naturalist-led hike through Summit Metro Parks' most recently added and restored property: the Valley View Area. Meet at the lodge, dressed for the weather and with binoculars. Hot cocoa will be available back at the lodge when the bird list for the day will be reviewed. Cascade Valley/Valley View area: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313

### **National Bird Day Hike: Wednesday, January 05, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

Come celebrate National Bird Day with a stroll through Liberty Metro Park as a naturalist talks everything bird! Learn, listen and look for our winter inhabitants. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them! Stop inside Liberty Park Nature Center afterward to warm up by the fire. Liberty Park Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087

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## Other News and Concerns

### **Thank you to all who wrote letters to Cleveland Planning Commission!**



The Cleveland Planning Commission approved the preliminary Sherwin-Williams building plans but they also acknowledged the MANY letters that were sent to them before the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. As birders, we got the ear of the Planning Commission and they indicated that the approval of the plans came with a caveat and that the bird-building-*g*lass collision issue will be revisited as the process moves forward. Stay tuned for future updates and calls for action.

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## More from *BirdWatching Daily*: New Research suggests that Redpoll Species are all One

New research from the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in *Nature Communications*, finds that redpolls aren't multiple species, genetically speaking. Instead, the three recognized species (Common, Hoary, and Lesser Redpoll) are all just one with a "supergene" that controls differences in plumage color and morphology, making them look different. Despite the differences in appearance, the birds are almost identical genetically but with a "supergene" that controls the different traits that make the birds appear different. In particular, the researchers found a chromosomal inversion (part of one chromosome is flipped) that allowed this supergene to be created. Read more about the research and these occasional winter visitors from the north:

[New research: Redpoll species are all one - BirdWatching \(birdwatchingdaily.com\)](https://birdwatchingdaily.com)

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## From National Audubon: Top Wins for Birds and People in 2021

The Audubon network achieved important victories to help protect both birds and people in 2021. Thank you for taking action on behalf of birds—we're very proud of what we have been able to accomplish together and look forward to more amazing things in 2022. Read more to see the most important ways our flock worked together this year: the [long](#) list of accomplishments come from the hard work and dedication of our members, chapters, volunteers, and staff. We're very proud of what we have been able to accomplish together over the past 12 months. [Top Wins for Birds and People in 2021 | Audubon](#)

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## Enjoy Winter with Cornell Lab's *Project FeederWatch*

Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November – April 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.

There is a fee (\$18 for non-members of Cornell Lab of Ornithology; \$15 for members) and you can sign up online <https://feederwatch.org/join-or-renew/> and get started counting at your leisure. There is even a mobile app that can make it easier.

Since 2016, participants have also been able to record behaviors observed at the feeders and that data has been fed into "a series of algorithms...to yield a web of relationships – a simple pecking order of about 200 species." Originally published in the *Washington Post*, and rerun by the *Seattle Times* on November 29, 2021: [Which birds are the biggest jerks at the feeder? A massive data analysis reveals the answer | The Seattle Times](#) The results may or may not surprise you. Spoiler alert: American Crows get top billing while chickadees usually rank lowest on the scale.

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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.



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)

Follow us on **Instagram**: @akronaudubon