



## Upcoming Programs and Events

**Medina County Park District**

**Birds & Beverages**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Oenslager Nature Center**

**6100 Ridge Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281**

**(Sharon Township)**



Cozy up in the bird viewing area with a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and join a naturalist for this indoor opportunity to observe various bird species! Ages 10 to adult. No registration is required. Free.



**Last Day to Register for  
Ohio Bluebird Society Conference  
Friday, February 16, 2024**



The Ohio Bluebird Society will hold its annual conference at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio on Saturday, March 2, 2024, 9:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. This year's theme is *Bring on the Bugs!* and features a full day of speakers and table displays and a Silent Auction. This conference has a strict "No Walk-ins" policy. For links to online registration or to view a flyer, see [Conference - Ohio Bluebird Society](#)

-----  
**Great Backyard Bird Count**

**February 16 – 19, 2024**

**Your backyard**

**or**

**Other Favorite Birding Areas**



Spend time in your **favorite places watching birds** and then report your sightings! In as little as **15 minutes** notice the birds around you. **Identify** them, **count** them, and **submit** them to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. **If you already use eBird or Merlin**, your submissions over the 4 days count towards the GBBC.

For more information about the count and other links to pre-event webinars and community birding events (like the one below), see [Great Backyard Bird Count – Join us each February when the world comes together to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds.](#)

-----

**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Great Backyard Bird Count**

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

**12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center**

**1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313**



Drop by the Wildlife Window to participate in this fun, easy and accessible worldwide event that engages bird watchers of all ages and abilities. Learn about community science and why it is so essential for our local wildlife!

-----

**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Birding by Ear for Beginners**

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Liberty Park Nature Center**

**9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087**



Do you want to take your birding skills to another level? Join us to learn the basics of birding by ear. Learn what to listen for, as well as techniques to improve your skills. By the end of the program, you will be able to identify at least 10 species by ear. You probably already know more than you think!



**Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Volunteers-In-Parks Open House**

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

**1:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Happy Days Lodge**

**500 West Streetsboro Rd., Peninsula, OH 44264**

**(Please park at Boston Run Trailhead and use the tunnel to cross to the Lodge.)**



Learn about all the ways you can make a difference in your national park as a volunteer at the Volunteers-in-Park Open House on February 18 from 1:00-3:30 pm at Happy Days Lodge. Come any time and talk to current volunteers, National Park Service (NPS) staff,

---

**Northeast Ohio Pollinator Society**  
**Virtual Winter Webinar Series**  
**Climate Change and Ohio Gardening**

**Dr. Aaron Wilson**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

**7:00 p.m.**



Aaron B. Wilson is an Atmospheric Scientist at The Ohio State University, holding a joint appointment as a Principal Investigator at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center (BPCRC) and Assistant Professor, Ag Weather with OSU Extension – the outreach arm of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. He is also a contributing member to the State Climate Office of Ohio (<http://climate.osu.edu>). Aaron uses his expertise in Ohio weather and climate to assess hydrologic conditions across the state, helping to coordinate the state’s weekly contribution to the U.S. Drought Monitor activities at the National Drought Mitigation Center. Aaron is passionate about educational outreach, dedicating many hours to serving BPCRC through tours and activities for students of all ages and participating in a wide range of engagement activities with OSU Extension, from county field day events to the Farm Science Review. Aaron encourages everyone across the rural to urban gradient to think about “your climate change” and how changing weather extremes are impacting you where you live. Register for this virtual program: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**

**Showtimes 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

**(Virtual option available February 24 – March 2, 2024)**

**Nightlight Theater**

**30 N. High St. Akron, OH 44308**



Summit Metro Parks Foundation is excited to bring the world-class Wild & Scenic Film Festival to Akron to celebrate the beauty of nature and importance of conservation. The 120-minute compilation will feature family-friendly, inspiring stories from around the U.S. and the world. Tickets are available now for two in-person showings at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., as well as a virtual showing available February 24 through March 2. All proceeds benefit the Summit Metro Parks Foundation, which creates stronger, more vibrant parks by enhancing the work of the park district.

Purchasing your tickets ahead of time is recommended as both showings are anticipated to sell out. Tickets can only be purchased through the website below and are not available at The Nightlight box office. There is no selection of seating within the theater. Handicapped seating is available, please contact us in advance ([330-252-5782](tel:330-252-5782)). Refunds will be available until Tuesday, February 20th at 11:59 pm. For those unable to attend on February 24<sup>th</sup>, a virtual viewing option will be available. Purchase a virtual ticket and you will be sent a link to view the films between February 24 and March 2 at your location. All showings will have the same collection of films and cost is \$25.

Visit the event website for a link to purchase tickets: [Wild & Scenic Film Festival \(ticketsignup.io\)](https://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.com/ticketsignup.io)

---

**Open House**  
**Community Engagement Session**  
**Former Brandywine Golf Course Property**  
**February 24, 2024**  
**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**November Lodge at**  
**Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center**  
**3675 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula, OH 44264**



Photo by Jack McCormick

The Conservancy for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park has announced an open house for the public to review the progression of the proposed Master Site Plan at the former Brandywine Golf Course property. Landscape Architecture firm Studio Zewde is working with the National Park Service, Biohabitats of Cleveland and Chagrin Valley Engineering to provide remediation work at the property that will inform remaining work on the property.

Feedback offered by the community on December 10, 2023 helped develop a concept framework for the work and those ideas and **registration** for the upcoming open house can be found here: [Former Brandywine Golf Course Project – Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park \(conservancyforcvnp.org\)](https://www.conservancyforcvnp.org)

---

**Upcoming Virtual Speaker Series from**

# The Aldo Leopold Foundation

Natural, Wild and Free

Leopold Week

March 1 – 8, 2024



"Perhaps such a shift of values can be achieved by reappraising things unnatural, tame, and confined in terms of things natural, wild and free."

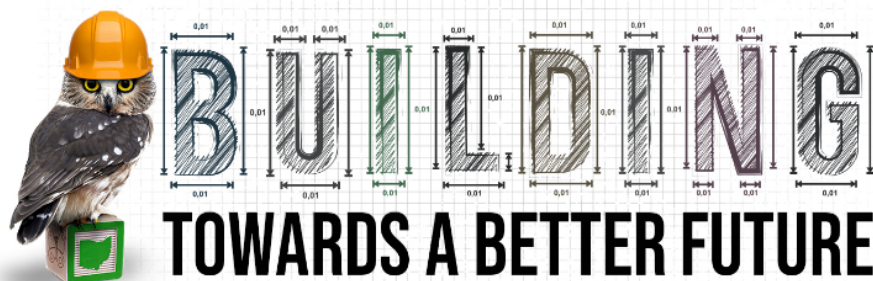
Aldo Leopold ended the foreword to *A Sand County Almanac* with this quote in March of 1948. His collection of essays reveals what "natural, wild, and free" meant to him back then. But what does it mean to us today? Join The Aldo Leopold Foundation March 1-8 for Leopold Week 2024 to explore this question and discover how you can more deeply connect to the land community. With one click of "Save my spot," you will be registered for all eight free, virtual speaker sessions. [Leopold Week | Celebrating Aldo Leopold | Baraboo, WI](#)

-----

Pre-registration Open for 40<sup>th</sup> Annual

Ohio Biodiversity Conference

March 14, 2024





Ohio's event is the largest single-day wildlife diversity conference in the country. The first Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference was held at The Ohio State University in 1985 with 40 people in attendance. In 2020, approximately 1,000 people attended the daylong event.

Pre-registration is highly recommended and is \$30.00 if paid before **February 29, 2024**.

Registration after that date or on site will be \$40.00. The registration fee includes all handout materials. The luncheon is available ONLY with pre-registration. Fees are nonrefundable; if you are unable to attend, you may send a substitute.

For more information, including the day's agenda, and link to register, visit [2024 Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference | Ohio Department of Natural Resources \(ohiodnr.gov\)](https://ohiodnr.gov/2024-Ohio-Wildlife-Diversity-Conference).

---

## **GAAS February Program (Virtual)**

### **An Update on Ticks in Ohio**

**Dr. Tim McDermott**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

**7:00 p.m.**



Dr. Tim McDermott

Ohio is on the forefront of tick and tick-vectored disease expansion going from one tick of medical importance 20 years ago to five now, including two new ticks added in the past few years. Come learn the state of ticks in Ohio and how you can keep yourself, your family, and your animals tick safe.

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAkceyprTsoHtZcOSfaB7hwQ1kG-dJe0zn2>

---

## **Bird Walks**

**Medina County Park District**

**Winter Bird Walk**

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Green Leaf Park**

**11674 S. Medina Line Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281**

**(Sharon Township)**



Bundle up, bring a pair of binoculars, and join a naturalist for this walk to search for and observe various bird species, because a winter walk is always enhanced by the sights and sounds of local winter birds! Ages 10 to adult. No registration is required. Free.

---

**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Winter Hike for Birds**

**Sunday, February 25, 2024**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Firestone Metro Park**

**Tuscarawas Meadows Area**

**2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319**



Join a naturalist for a hike along Redwing Trail to learn about birds and their winter adaptations. Dress for the weather and plan to stop along the way to hand feed the birds.

~~~~~

## News You Can Use

**GRAMMY Award Winner**  
**for Best Boxed or Special Limited Edition Package**  
**For The Birds: The Birdsong Project**



The National Audubon Society is celebrating a GRAMMY Award Winning effort that was made possible by co-creators Randall Poster and Rebecca Reagan with the help of Jeri and John Heiden of SMOG Design, the designers behind this one-of-a-kind boxed set. In collaboration with some of the world's greatest musicians, artists, and actors, **For the Birds: The Birdsong Project** is an art-filled, 20 LP box set including more than 200 tracks of original music and bird-related poetry. The works celebrate the joy birds bring to our lives and in bring attention to the message they have about the environmental threats

we all face. Proceeds from sale of the box sets benefit The National Audubon Society. For much more detail, see [For The Birds: The Birdsong Project — The Birdsong Project](#)

~~~~~

**Environment for the Americas  
Announces Theme for 2024:  
Insects**



Below is the recent announcement from EFTA about this year's World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) theme: Insects.

**The Alarming Decline of Insects  
Protect Insects, Protect Birds**

In May 2017, *Science Magazine* published an article titled, "[Where have all the insects gone?](#)". It noted that flying insect populations in certain areas of Germany had plummeted by 75% in just 27 years. While fluctuations in insect species are expected, it's the overall decline that is cause for concern. Since the article's publication, the population decline of insects has only continued.

The decline in insect populations has a detrimental effect on migratory birds, as insects provide essential energy during their stopovers, and often dictate their migration patterns. Terrestrial bird populations that rely on insects have seen a staggering decrease of 2.9 billion in the past 50 years. In North America, a striking 96% of terrestrial birds feed their young with insects.

Millions of birds rely on insects for their food, which makes them necessary for keeping our ecosystem stable. Insects are often misunderstood, overlooked, and forgotten, even though they play such an important role in maintaining a healthy environment. That's why the spotlight of this year's WMBD campaign falls on the fascinating world of insects!

## How Did This Happen?

Numerous factors contribute to this decline, including climate change, agriculture, insecticides, urbanization, and light pollution. [World Migratory Bird Day](#) is bringing attention to the need for proactive conservation measures. This means creating reserves, restoring degraded areas, and cutting down on pesticide use. It also advocates the importance of international cooperation and protecting stopover points to coordinate our conservation efforts.

It's really important to raise public awareness and knowledge about the roles insects play in our lives. There have been long-standing misconceptions that portray insects as enemies and pests.

## World Migratory Bird Day 2024

To combat potential environmental disasters caused by biodiversity loss, WMBD 2024 will focus on conservation proposals at various levels.

Individuals can make a significant impact by taking simple actions that create better habitats for insects and changing public attitudes. For instance, transforming plain lawns into bug-friendly spaces, using native plants that insects prefer, cutting down on bug spray, reducing light pollution, and keeping water clean from harmful substances.

It's important to shift our perspective on bugs and recognize their role as pollinators and irreplaceable members of the food web. Educating others, especially children, about the significance of insects and supporting programs that promote insect awareness are at the heart of our campaign and education outreach. Additionally, advocating for insect and bird conservation in politics and supporting decisions that protect these species can truly make a difference.

By consciously making choices that positively impact insects, each and every one of us can contribute to their preservation. WMBD encourages individuals to be mindful of their daily actions and their impact on insects, ultimately protecting the lives of migratory birds and working towards a more sustainable future.

~~~~~

**Who Wins at The Bird Feeder—The Lone Wolf or The Social Butterfly?**



Blue Jays often have the upper hand, but this female Northern Cardinal stands her ground at a bird feeder. Photo by Janet/Adobe Stock.

(From an article by Marc Devokaitis [1/4/24] in ***All About Birds***, The Cornell Lab's website)

When the weather turns cold, bird feeders can transform into stages for dramatic conflicts between birds. Feeder birds might squabble over preferred spots or choice foods.

Previous research examined these exciting struggles to learn more about how specific bird species might act more or less dominant towards other birds, but how do flocks factor in? New research on bird behavior is helping us learn more about the intricate interplay of bird dominance at the feeder.

Using observations recorded on Project FeederWatch, a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada, researchers studied the interactions of 68 species at feeders. The interactions get complicated, but generally, the less social birds – like White-breasted Nuthatches and Red-bellied Woodpeckers are most likely to displace other species when they visit singly. But when more socially inclined species such as Pine Siskins, American Goldfinches and House Sparrows visit feeders in groups of five or more, they're more successful. The bottom line? "It takes energy to fight, and it can be dangerous, so it usually makes sense to avoid it," says Cornell Lab of Ornithology Research Associate Eliot Miller. The role of harsh weather on group size at feeders will be studied next. Read the article here: [Who Wins at the Bird Feeder—the Lone Wolf or the Social Butterfly? | All About Birds All About Birds](#)



**Wild Greater Honeyguides have Collaborative Relationship with Humans**



A male Greater Honeyguide in Mozambique's Niassa Special Reserve.  
Claire Spottiswoode

In Tanzania and Mozambique, human honey hunters attract the Geater Honeyguide with distinct calls. The birds appear and lead the people to trees filled with bees and honeycomb, thus benefiting the humans and the birds. After the honeycomb has been hacked out of the tree, human foragers take the honey and the birds feast on the remaining beeswax. However, the calls used by each community are different and researchers found that the birds only respond to the local calls of their respective human communities. It became clear that the birds had to have learned what their human neighbors do when they want to partner up and go honey-hunting.

Listen to the 4-minute piece on NPR's *All Things Considered*: [Wild African honeyguide birds learn the special calls of their human partners : Goats and Soda : NPR](#)

-----

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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](#)

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 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](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

**Follow us on Instagram:** @akronaudubon

**Greater Akron Audubon Society**

P.O. Box 19190, Akron OH 44319  
United States of America

[info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)



You received this email because you signed up on  
our website or made purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

