



## Upcoming Programs and Events

**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>

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**Environment for the Americas**

**Bird Book Club (Virtual)**

***Find More Birds* with Author Heather Wolf**

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

**8:00 p.m.**



Seeing more birds than you ever imagined and witnessing exciting avian drama is possible—whether you're on the go or in your own neighborhood, local park, or backyard. As Heather Wolf explains, it all comes down to how you tune in to the show happening around you, the one in which birds—highly skilled at staying under the radar—are the stars. In ***Find More Birds***, Heather shares her very best tactics—and the jaw-dropping photographs they helped her capture.

Discover the captivating world of bird-watching with "Find More Birds" by Heather Wolf. Engage in conversation with the author herself and unlock the secrets to spotting incredible birds in your very own surroundings. Don't miss

this opportunity to enhance your bird-watching skills with our online community.

Register in advance for this Leap Day session: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

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**The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Presents**

**Protecting Natural Darkness for Wildlife**

**With Matthew Shumar and Ryan Trimbath**

**Friday, March 8, 2024**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)**

**Happy Days Lodge**

**500 West Streetsboro St./State Route 303**

**Peninsula, OH 44264**



Join the Conservancy for a discussion on protecting natural darkness for wildlife with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Matthew Shumar, program coordinator of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) will share information about the Ohio Lights Out campaign, an innovative approach to bird conservation, including tips on what you can do at home to help protect birds.

In addition, during the program, hear from Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) Biologist Ryan Trimbath, who will share information on the Night Skies Division for the National Park Service, tips on exploring CVNP at night, background on the bats of CVNP, ecological impacts of artificial lights, and the ongoing CVNP Lighting Assessment & Inventory.

Did you know that Greater Akron Audubon Society is also a partner with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative, a collaboration of non-profit groups, businesses, state and federal government agencies advancing avian conservation in Ohio and the region?

Tickets for this event are \$10 for Conservancy members and \$15 for general admission and can be purchased in advance through Eventbrite: [Protecting Natural Darkness for Wildlife Tickets, Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

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**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Pigeons: Man's Best Friend?**

**Friday, March 8, 2024**

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Summit Lake Nature Center**

**411 Ira Ave., Akron 44301**



From being revered as a symbol of fertility to reviled as rats with wings, pigeons have a history full of twists and turns. Join a naturalist to learn about the history of this common bird and its extinct relatives.

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**Shreve Migration Sensation**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024**

**7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Clinton Township Building**

**135 E. McConkey St., Shreve, OH 44676**

# MIGRATION



# SENSATION

www.shreveohio.com

Known as a rite of spring among some birders, this annual event is back and sponsored by The Shreve Small Business & Community Association, The Ohio Division of Wildlife, and The Wilderness Center. Featured speakers include Aaron Brown, Jamey Emmert, Greg Miller and Laura Kearns. Start the day by registering and picking up a map with the day's venues and activities that feature tours of Brown's Bog, children's activities, the Medina Raptor Center, and much more. For a complete itinerary of the day and an online registration link to register early, see [Migration Sensation 2024 \(constantcontactpages.com\)](https://www.constantcontactpages.com).

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## **Medina County Park District Event**

**Duck, Duck, Goose!**

**Saturday and Sunday, March 9 – 10, 2024**

**12:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

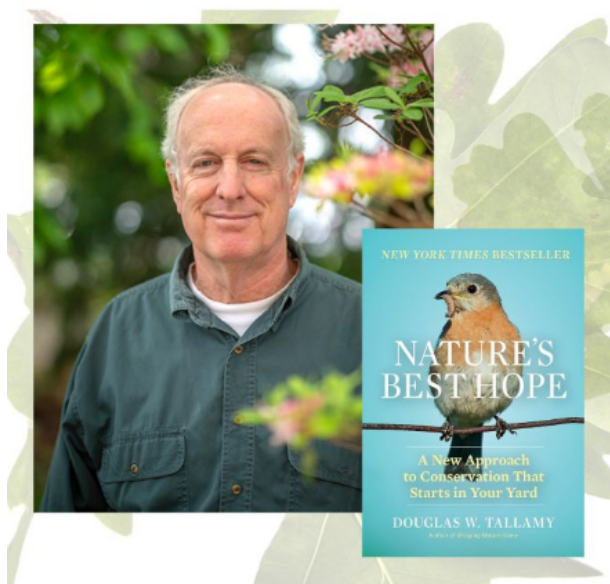
**Susan Hambley Nature Center**

**1473 Parschen Blvd., Brunswick, OH 44212**



Early spring is a great time to keep an eye on Brunswick Lake and other bodies of water for waterfowl like ducks and geese. Drop by Susan Hambley Nature Center any time during the hours above for educational displays, activities, and more! All ages are welcome.

**Tickets now on Sale**  
**Northeast Ohio Pollinator Symposium**  
**Presents Dr. Doug Tallamy**  
**Bringing Nature's Best Hope to Ashtabula**  
**Friday, June 7, 2024**  
**7:00 – 10:00 p.m.**  
**Lakeside High School Theater**  
**6600 Sanborn Rd., Ashtabula, OH 44004**



The Northeast Ohio Pollinator Society and the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners welcome Dr. Doug Tallamy as he discusses his book, *Nature's Best Hope*. Book signing to follow. \$15.00 for those who live outside Ashtabula County. [2024 NEOPS Presents Doug Tallamy - Cheddar Up](#)

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## **Bird Walks**

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**  
**Bird Watching: Cozy Hideouts**  
**Saturday, March 9, 2024**  
**8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center**  
**3675 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula, OH 44264**



Take a walk in the search of lingering migrating birds. Bring binoculars to spot red-breasted nuthatches, kinglets, and more along flat paved and unpaved trails.



## News You Can Use

**Just When we Thought the Bird Name Change was a Foregone Conclusion!**

 AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



**Jim McCormac**

In his regularly-published column for the *Columbus Dispatch*, naturalist Jim McCormac writes about the American Ornithological Society's recent decision to rename all honorific names of birds in the Americas. But Jim sounds a compelling argument not to move forward with a "blanket purge" of all honorific bird names. He states that, "Resistance to the proposed AOS name changes has been widespread and opponents probably greatly outnumber proponents.... The logic behind arguments for retaining existing names makes far more sense and maintains long-established stability." Read his piece here: [Is renaming of honorific birds necessary? Our columnist doesn't think so \(dispatch.com\)](https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/2020/09/15/aos-bird-name-changes/5544440002). What do you think? If you agree, offer your dissenting opinion to the AOS leadership by using

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**Raise Your Voice for Wildlife:  
Contact Congress Now & Ask For Full Refuge System  
Funding!**



National  
Wildlife Refuge  
Association

ACCESS MATTERS: THE REFUGE BUDGET

Congress should wrap up budget negotiations for fiscal year (FY) 2024 very soon. And as the current stopgap funding for the Department of the Interior nears its end on March 8, the National Wildlife Refuge System faces a potential 10% reduction from current funding levels if the U.S. House of Representatives' proposed appropriations level prevails. This could seriously damage the Refuge System's ability to fulfill its vital conservation mission, including actions essential for birds.

In fact, over the last decade, stagnant funding for the Refuge System has resulted in a distressing 25% loss of full-time staff. This can't continue without compromising the ability to provide for birds and other wildlife. Cuts like these will lead to serious conservation management risks, a further backlog in maintenance projects, and losses in the areas of visitor services and public access.

You can reach your Members of Congress over funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System. This could support local refuges and allow adequate staff to manage invasive species, protect bird populations, finish maintenance projects, and sustain or increase access for birders and other visitors.

You can take action here, adding your own comments on birds, birding, access, and the future: [\[Advocacy\] FY24 Appropriations — The National Wildlife Refuge Association](#)

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## Results of GAAS Christmas Bird Count are In

The 2023 Christmas Bird Count results are now in the record books. Area leaders were informed of the results by compiler Dan Toth earlier this month. Participant numbers were down (111) and so were feeder count submittals (5). But despite the cold, rainy weather, 85 species and 135,352 birds were observed. Save the date of December 15, 2024 for the 2024 count The official report is now available on the GAAS website [cbc2023results.pdf \(akronaudubon.org\)](#) and a summary of the count is also available ([cbc2023-summary.pdf \(akronaudubon.org\)](#)).

As a side note to Christmas Bird Count data, our January speaker, Brendan Shirkey, from Winous Point Marsh Conservancy spoke of Andrea Spurck, a grad student at The Ohio State University, who is modelling future waterfowl movement in Ohio and the Upper Mississippi River Valley/Great Lakes region. She has used Ohio Christmas Bird Count data from 1950 to 2020. “Changes in the abundance of wintering ducks in Ohio and the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Joint Venture (UMGLRJV) could have implications for wetland conservation planning, food and resource limitations, and waterfowl hunting and viewing opportunities at different latitudes. Our research plans to describe historic changes in waterfowl distribution in Ohio..., model those changes forward using climate change data and models, and to examine specific implications for fall harvest...Warming temperatures have caused declines in snow and ice cover in the Great Lakes region. Consequently, milder winters have enabled some species to remain north later in the season. Abundant food resources are available to migrating ducks in fall but additional numbers of overwintering waterfowl will increase competition for food among ducks in this region. Food resources in spring could become increasingly limited if large numbers of waterfowl begin to overwinter in Ohio. Projecting increased abundance of overwintering waterfowl in Ohio is important to proactively address the potential future constraints of resources and to maintain hunting opportunities.”

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### Food Tank Names Audubon Conservation Ranching One to Watch in 2024



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Robert Michaelson/Audubon Photography Awards

**Food Tank** compiled its list of food and agriculture organizations to watch in 2024. Audubon Conservation Ranching made the research and advocacy nonprofit's list of 124 organizations (#5, actually) to watch, groups that are continuing to push for food and agriculture systems that are economically, socially, and environmentally just and equitable. Read their report here: [124 Food and Agriculture Organizations to Watch in 2024! – Food Tank](#)

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### Some Birding Humor:

#### Parrots at a Zoo in England Have a Swearing Problem



Eight African Gray Parrots at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Park in England were recently moved to a colony of 92 parrots of the same species – in hopes that the offenders will pick up on the repetitive noises and sounds that they make. And not the other way around!

Here's your 3-minute listen and transcript from January 27<sup>th</sup> **Weekend Edition**: [A pair of parrots at a zoo in England have a swearing problem : NPR](#)

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#### Audubon Great Lakes Promotes Solar Energy in Ohio



National Audubon Society's current Strategic Plan has set some ambitious milestones through 2028. One of these milestones involves climate action in order to “bend the bird

curve.” In recognizing that “there is no path to stabilizing the climate without dramatically changing how we produce [and effectively transmit electricity], we must shift to clean, renewable energy for birds’ long-term survival, and our own.” Without rapid transition to renewable energy sources, National Audubon Society estimates that two-thirds of North American bird species may face unlivable conditions across their current range by 2080!

National is calling on local chapter members to champion renewable energy in our communities so that by 2028, we can meet a goal of 100 Gigawatts of renewable energy generation. In Ohio, solar energy may have the least impact on migratory birds. However, in Ohio there has been growing resistance to solar energy ([Anonymously funded group stokes local opposition to Ohio solar project | Energy News Network](#)). Recently, Adam Forrer, a Policy Director at Audubon Great Lakes, addressed chapter leaders in our five-state area and emphasized new efforts in **Knox and Logan Counties in Ohio** to work with other groups to improve responsible solar siting that will minimize impacts to birds. Such efforts involve the use of seed mixes of low-growing plants under and around solar panels. Habitat-friendly solar sites can also help mitigate land-use conflicts associated with the conversion of farmland for solar energy production (one of the main concerns and objections that Ohio farmers have voiced). The proper siting of habitat-friendly solar energy on marginal farmland can not only preserve prime farmland, but it could make prime farmland more productive through the pollination services provided by habitat-friendly solar energy. The results of a five-year study by the Department of Energy were recently published and showed that “agriculturally beneficial insects (honeybees, native bees, wasps, hornets, hoverflies and other flies, moths, butterflies and beetles) increased in abundance as did flowering plant species as well...[The] researchers found that pollinators from the solar sites also visited soybean flowers in adjacent crop fields, providing additional pollination services.” Read more here: [Insect populations flourish in the restored habitats of solar energy facilities \(phys.org\)](#).



## Final Incidental Take Rule Offers Eagle Populations Stability



Bald Eagles on nest. Photo by Larry Master. [www.masterimages.org](http://www.masterimages.org).

In other news related to expanding renewable energy, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has released news that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently announced revised regulations for permits under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection

Act that will go into effect April 12, 2024. General permits would be for four activities: wind energy, powerlines, disturbance take, and nest take. In contrast, specific permits are issued for projects which exceed particular thresholds and thus, are deemed higher-risk to eagles. Michael J. Parr, President of ABC, stated, "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to be commended for a smart solution, as this rule will likely provide increased stability for eagle populations impacted by the clean energy transition." The February 8, 2024 news release: [Final Incidental Take Rule Offers Eagle Populations Stability - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.americanbirdconservancy.org/news/2024/02/08/final-incidentals-rule-offers-eagle-populations-stability).

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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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/calendar).

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

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## Greater Akron Audubon Society

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