

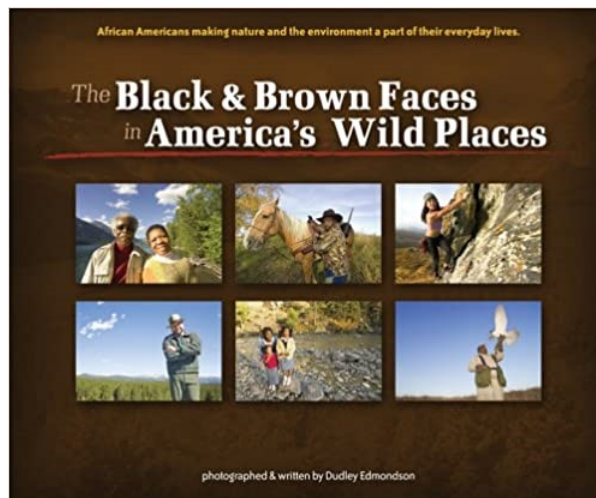


Upcoming Programs and Events

Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places (Virtual) **Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Enjoy an evening of environmental diversity! Based on the award-winning book, discover how people of color have defined wild places in Summit Metro Parks and beyond. Link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88970690123#success>



Inviting Biodiversity into Our Gardens is a free webinar series that is a collaborative effort made possible by Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Nature Spark and Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium. The third of five sessions, **Forests and Pollinators: Sustaining a Close-knit Ecosystem**, **Wednesday, February 9, 2022; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**, will focus on the integral role trees play in attracting pollinators to our gardens. Presenters will address oaks and other woody species in our landscape, and how pests are affecting our forests, and in turn pollinators.


Advance registration is required and a link for the virtual program will be sent upon registration. For more detail on the speakers and their bios, and to register, please see [Pollinator Symposium – Session 3 – Western Reserve Land Conservancy \(wrlandconservancy.org\)](#) A recording will be sent to those who register for in case you missed the live program or wish to re-watch parts.

From the American Bird Conservancy









Why Bird-Friendly Cacao Is the Perfect Valentine's Day Gift Thursday, February 10, 2022 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Join American Bird Conservancy for this webinar to learn all about cacao production in Central America and the Caribbean, and how it impacts migratory and resident birds. Americans are expected to buy more than 58 million pounds of chocolate the week of Valentine's Day. Production of chocolate's main ingredient, cacao, can have a huge environmental impact, but there are ways to produce it that conserve and restore habitat for birds. New bird-friendly cacao certification standards that will be launched this spring by Smithsonian will be discussed as well as on-the-ground efforts that are helping birds and farmers. Some tips will be offered so that when you're buying chocolate you get the best possible for birds. To register: [Why Bird-Friendly Cacao Is the Perfect Valentine's Day Gift \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

 **THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

TENDING NATURE
Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in
Fostering Biodiversity

 Mary Gardiner The Ohio State University	 Doug Tallamy The University of Delaware	 Lisa Olsen Wild Ones	 Bryan Danforth Cornell University	 Heather Holm Author and Biologist	 Debra Knapke Author and Garden Designer
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Only one more session remains in this webinar series that meets virtually on Fridays at **10:00 a.m.** for approximately one hour.

Join **Debra Knapke: Native Plants in My Garden? Absolutely!** for the last session on **February 11th**. To attend live, register here [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#) or to review previous session recordings, including audio, audio transcripts and closed captioning transcripts, please see [Recordings | Tending Nature \(osu.edu\)](#).

Superb Owl Sunday
Sunday, February 13, 2022 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Liberty Park Nature Center, 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087

Stop by during this outdoor open house to learn about these amazing predatory birds that call our parks home and even meet a live owl ambassador! Who is interested?

Wind Power and a Clean Energy Transition Webinar
Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Join National Audubon's Clean Energy Initiative for an informative and engaging webinar as they discuss the opportunities clean energy offers to protect birds from climate change, and how they work to ensure wind power is properly sited and responsibly managed to move towards a clean energy transition. Q & A format will follow. Please note that this is an advocacy action program [Webinar: Wind Power and a Clean Energy Transition | Audubon](#)

GAAS February (Virtual) Program
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 7:00 p.m.



Nat Miller, Director of Conservation for National Audubon Society's Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi Flyway, will present **Audubon's Vision: Restoring the Great Lakes for Birds and People**. The loss of and degradation of our coastal habitats from urban and agricultural development, invasive species and a changing climate pose the greatest threats to Great Lakes birds. A recent study found that North America has lost more than a quarter of its bird population in the last 50 years. The time to act is now. Audubon has developed a cohesive strategy to engage communities across the region to address these threats. With more than 10,000 miles of shoreline, Audubon has identified twelve nearshore watersheds of the Great Lakes that most need our help. The projects and programs highlighted in this report are critical to helping the region recover from current threats and will directly benefit key bird species that have seen dramatic declines, while setting the region on a path to long-term environmental health and resilience. Nat will also

**Great Backyard Bird Count Hike at Liberty Park Nature Center
Followed by Coffee with the Birds 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087**

Other News You Can Use

Summit Metro Parks Annual Amateur Photography Exhibit – 2022

A collection of photos chosen for inclusion in the 2022 Amateur Photography Exhibit can be viewed in person inside the visitors center auditorium at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron) through May 2022 or online here: [Summit Metro Parks Annual Amateur Photography Exhibit - 2022 - YouTube](#)

25th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count: February 18 – 21st



Carolina Wren by Gary Mueller/Macaulay Library

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) [Great Backyard Bird Count – Join us February 18-21, 2022. When the world comes together for the love of birds](#) is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society and Birds Canada and founding sponsor Wild Birds Unlimited. Last year, a record number of about 300,000 people participated worldwide in this citizen science, data-collection effort that provides the information needed to better protect birds and the places they need. Any length of time over the minimum 15-minute observation period is allowed and participants enter a new checklist online for each new location or time of day during the four-day count. There are also tools and information on the GBBC website to help new and returning birders. A free webinar about how to participate in the GBBC will be held Feb. 16 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. To register [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#) If you are new to the effort or would like to participate in a group setting, please see the above Summit Metro Parks GBBC hike at Liberty Park Nature Center on February 19th.

An album made entirely of endangered bird sounds beat Taylor Swift on a top 50 chart

Songs Of Disappearance is an entire album of calls from endangered Australian birds. In December, it briefly perched at No. 3 on the country's top 50 albums chart – ahead of Taylor Swift. The album was released with a university report that found 1 in 6 Australian bird species are now threatened and 53 species are featured. Have a look at this interesting NPR report: [An album of endangered bird sounds beat Taylor Swift in a top 50 chart : NPR](#)

Do you miss *Bird Watcher's Digest*?

With the recent closure of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, you may be looking for another publication that will inspire, educate and interest you. **BirdWatching** is more than a magazine; in fact, it bills itself as “*Your source for becoming a better birder,*” offering gear and books, travel opportunities, identification tips, beginner information, birding news, conservation and science updates as well as news and commentary from some of the best names in birding such as David Sibley, Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, and Laura Erickson. Now in its 36th year, it has an audience of more than 250,000 avid birders and touts its quality photography and offers photography tips and contests as well as online reader galleries. It offers a free online newsletter and there are also tiered membership options, in addition to subscriptions, that offer premium content. To learn more about print, digital or a combination of both editions, and to subscribe, please read more here: [About Us - BirdWatching \(birdwatchingdaily.com\)](#)

Timely Tip from National Wildlife Federation: How does the chocolate you buy impact the birds in your yard?



In case you can't make it to the above ABC webinar about cacao on Feb. 10th, here's another chance to get caught up on the sourcing of chocolate. Much like coffee, the cocoa plant, is native to the tropical rain forests of Central and South America. For more than a thousand years, cocoa plants were cultivated throughout the forest, tucked under a lush canopy of shade. While much cocoa is still grown in the traditional way, many growers have cleared the forests to cultivate the trees in open plantations, leading to a host of environmental problems such as forest degradation, increased use of pesticides and fewer songbirds. Have a look at their report [Sustainable Chocolate | National Wildlife Federation \(nwf.org\)](#) and an accompanying blog that also details ways we can make impacts [Give Love to Wildlife on Valentine's Day: Buy Ethical Chocolate • The National Wildlife Federation Blog : The National Wildlife Federation Blog \(nwf.org\)](#)

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 and events, please visit the **Northeast Ohio Bird Calendar**, hosted by Kirtland Bird Club: [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 (<https://www.akronaudubon.org>) Under the **Participate** tab, find **Meetings** and click on **Meeting Archives** (<https://www.akronaudubon.org/meeting-archives.html>). If a 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

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