



Upcoming Programs and Events

Medina County Park District Event

Duck, Duck, Goose!

Saturday and Sunday, March 16 – 17, 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.

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**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Back Yards Gone Wild:**

**DIY Bluebird Boxes**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Liberty Park Nature Center**

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



Join a naturalist for this monthly series focused on creating nature-friendly backyards. The focus this month is on cavity-nesting birds such as chickadees, bluebirds and wrens. After a short presentation, participants can make a bluebird box to take home, free of charge, courtesy of Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Kits are limited to one per household. Registration is required by calling [330-865-8065](tel:330-865-8065).

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**Free Webinar from The Cornell Lab:**

**Birds of the World *Discovery Series***

**The Ecology of Red-tailed Hawks**

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**12:00 p.m.**



Join The Cornell Lab for the next Birds of the World 'Discovery Series' webinar. Over the past 4 years, The Red-tailed Hawk Project has captured and sampled more than 400

hawks from 7 of the 16 described subspecies and deployed over 100 tracking units. In this webinar, Bryce Robinson, PhD Candidate in the Department of Ecology and Evolution, Cornell University and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will share what the project has learned from these efforts, and what they hope to learn moving forward. Register in advance for this live Zoom program or to later receive a link to the recording: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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## **Summit Metro Parks Program**

### **Bird Nerds: Migration**

**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

**F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm**

**Visitors Center**

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



New birders and experts alike are welcome to join in this lively series for a fun, approachable discussion on a new bird topic each month. This month's topic is on the amazing world of bird migration, exploring both how and why birds move around the globe.

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## **GAAS March Program**

### **An Unconventional Approach to Hooking New Birders**

**Kevin Ruegg, Interpretive Naturalist**

**With Summit Metro Parks**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:00 p.m.**

**Goodyear Heights Lodge – West Room**

**Goodyear Heights Metro Park**



All who study wildlife know the rules: “Use objective observations only. Never project human qualities onto wildlife.” Agreed. But also, why not? Our approach to birding continues to evolve and adapt – sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. Regardless, these changes aren’t happening nearly as quickly as the changes in people are. In this presentation we will look at the delights and dilemmas of one naturalist attempting to adapt to a world moving only faster and faster. Is “anthropomorphizing” ever appropriate? Can humor apply with a biodiversity crisis at hand? Is it ok to make fun of a bird? One monthly series with over 500 visitors would suggest, maybe.

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## **Bird Walks**

### **Medina County Park District Event**

#### **Waterfowl Wednesday**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

#### **Lake Medina**

**3733 Granger Rd., Medina, OH 44256**



Whether you’re new to watching waterfowl or a seasoned birder, this “dabblers and divers” adventure is for you! Join naturalists to discover waterfowl in the parks with the help of spotting scopes. Start your adventure at the Granger Road entrance to Lake Medina.

From there, head over to explore Chippewa Inlet Trail North. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

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**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Waterfowl Watch**

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Nimisila Reservoir, Lot C1**

**5034 Christman Rd., Green, OH 44319**



Join a naturalist at Nimisila Reservoir to search for the amazing migrating waterfowl that we can view in our area this time of year. Be prepared for short drives between parking lots around the reservoir looking for birds. Bring binoculars.

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**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Sunset Birding**

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Summit Lake Nature Center**

**411 Ira Ave., Akron, OH 44301**



Celebrate waterfowl's journey northward with a naturalist-led birding hike. A limited supply of binoculars will be available to borrow.



**A Western Reserve Land Conservancy Event**  
**Vibrant Places: Waterfowl at Grand Valley Ranch**  
**Friday, March 22, 2024**  
**8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**



Led by members of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland and Renee Boronka, Manager of Education at the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, this free walk in Orwell,

Ohio is open to the first 25 people who register. The ranch is owned by the Land Conservancy and consists of 1,200 acres of ideal habitat for waterfowl and waterbirds.

Permanently conserved in 2015, the Land Conservancy has restored the site from historical high impact uses (agriculture, mining, and aquaculture) to a natural, 3-mile long, flow-through wetland complex. Utilizing funds from Clean Ohio, USFWS, and the Ohio EPA, \$3.5M was invested in the property to restore this ancient Tamarack Swamp.

Directions will be sent to registrants: [Vibrant Places: Waterfowl at Grand Valley Ranch | Western Reserve Land Conservancy \(wrlandconservancy.org\)](#)



**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Weekend Bird Walk**

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**

**8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Silver Creek Metro Park**

**Pheasant Run Area**

**5000 Hametown Rd., Norton, OH 44203**



Catch the first wave of migrants returning for spring alongside familiar feathered friends while walking with a naturalist along the Pheasant Run Trail.



**Summit Metro Parks Program**

**Migration Madness Field Trip**

**Friday, March 29, 2024**

**6:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**(Registration now open)**

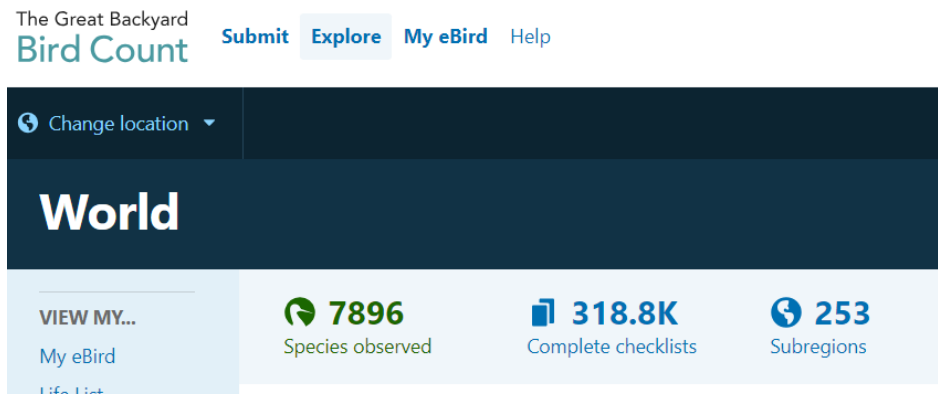


Join Summit Metro Parks naturalists on a bus trip to Wayne County for a morning of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds in the wetlands of Killbuck Marsh and Funk Bottoms. Pack binoculars, spotting scopes, snack and a lunch. Dress for weather conditions. Bus departs from F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, Akron, OH 44313. Cost is \$55.00 per person (\$60.17 with fees). Register online here: [330TIX](#) | [Summit Metro Parks Events](#)

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## News You Can Use

### A Look Back at 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count



A big thank you to the almost 600,000 people who took part in the 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count! The Cornell Lab received over 125,000 photos of birds and birders from across the globe. Dig into the numbers and photos, by continent, here: [Celebrating Birds, Together – Great Backyard Bird Count](#)

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**Application Deadline: March 17, 2024!**

**The Cornell Lab Young Birders Event 2024**

**June 27 – 30, 2024**



This 4-day event, held in Ithaca, NY, aims to bring together teenagers with a passion for birds and an interest in pursuing a career that connects with birds. You'll meet people who



have successful careers that involve birds in a variety of ways from ecologists and artists, to audio specialists and computer scientists.

All high school-aged birders from anywhere in the world are invited to apply (students entering grades 9-12 in the fall). You do not need to be an expert birder to apply – we're looking for students with a passion for birds who want to learn about careers in ornithology! Sixteen young birders will be chosen by late March and slight preference is given to students entering 12th grade and students who have previously applied.

Tuition costs \$600 and includes lodging, food, and transportation to birding sites during the weekend. Travel expenses to and from Ithaca are not covered in the tuition. The Cornell Lab also has scholarships available and can help coordinate additional support for travel. Binoculars are also available to those who need them.

*The Cornell Lab is a welcoming community that values and respects teenagers from all backgrounds and identities. Through this event, The Lab strives to foster a birding community where everyone feels they belong.*

For more details and a link to the application, see [The Cornell Lab Young Birders Event 2024 - eBird](#)

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## **Open House Update on the Progression of the Former Brandywine Golf Course Site Plan**



Photo credit: NPS / Tim Fenner

If you were unable to attend the February 24<sup>th</sup> presentation about the conceptual site plan for the former Brandywine Golf Course, it is now available on the Conservancy's website. During that meeting, representatives from Studio Zewde, the landscape architects for the

project, shared an update since the last open house in December. A number of big concept ideas were presented; at the heart of them was shifting Akron Peninsula Road away from the river's edge to expand safe site access to the Cuyahoga River, protect the river's edge from further erosion and improve the overall quality of the watershed. A survey to provide feedback is still available on the website. Have a listen and look at the master plan and feel free to comment on the conceptual ideas: [Conservancy for CVNP: February E-News \(mailchi.mp\)](#).

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## **Grocery Chains to Ban Use of Neonics by Suppliers, in Move to Protect Pollinators**



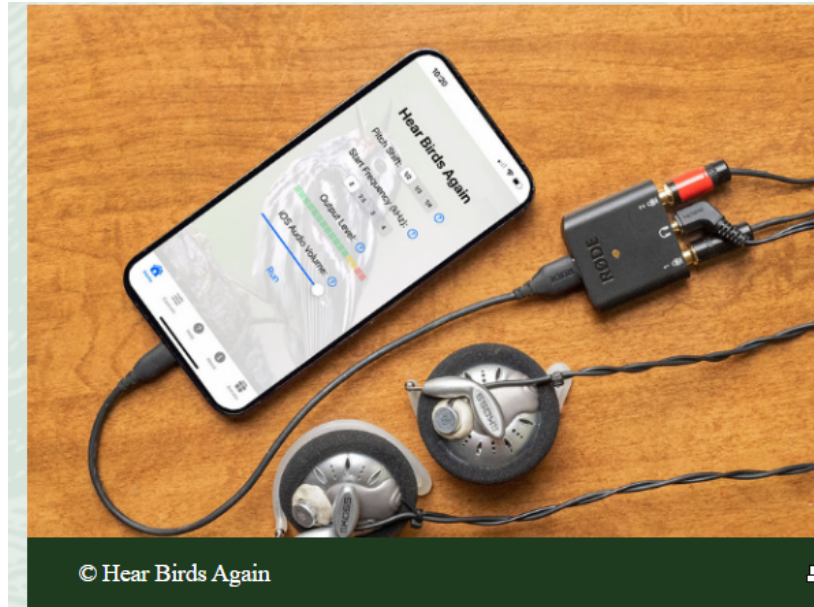
*Honeybees pollinating the flowers of an apple tree. MichelGuenette / iStock / Getty Images Plus*

American Bird Conservancy has championed the widespread halt of the use of neonics for over a decade, but now our grocers are realizing that these toxic pesticides are also as much a threat to biodiversity collapse and our own food supply as climate change. Whole Foods and Kroger top the list of national grocers who are forcing food and flower growers to comply with a ban on neonicotinoids. And other grocers such as Giant Eagle, Walmart, Aldi, Costco, CVS, Dollar Tree, Meijer, Rite Aid, and Target are implementing policies that encourage reduced use of these chemicals but without targeted metrics.

Because the Environment for the Americas' theme for 2024 is Insects, we welcome any news that allows for pollinators and other insect to thrive as we appreciate the role they play in the lives of birds, especially migratory birds. Neonics work by attacking the nervous system in insects (and the birds that eat those insects), leading to paralysis and death in higher doses. At smaller doses, Natural Resources Defense Council reported that these pesticides can still weaken the immune system, memory, stamina and reproduction of insects and keep pollinators from pollinating crops. Read the item from EcoWatch's Paige Bennett, published Feb. 21, 2024: [Grocery Chains to Ban Use of Neonics by Suppliers, in Move to Protect Pollinators - EcoWatch](#)

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## An App That Helps You Hear High-Pitched Bird Songs



Lang Elliott, professional nature recordist, is featured in this March 1, 2024 item from BirdNote®. “For years, nature recordist Lang Elliott came up with clever ways to hear high-pitched bird songs despite his high-frequency hearing loss. Lang teamed up with a programmer to develop a mobile app called *Hear Birds Again*. Currently it’s only available for iPhones, but it’s able to take high-pitch bird songs and shift them down into a lower range. Have a listen or view the transcript with resource links to Lang Elliott and the mobile app: [An App That Helps You Hear High-Pitched Bird Songs | BirdNote](#)

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## In Celebration of Spring and Birds: Some Bird Egg Facts from *Birds & Blooms*



EYEWAVE/GETTY IMAGES

An interesting collection of egg facts that have been researched and compiled by writer Christine Peterson for *Birds & Blooms*, a trusted source of birding, gardening, and nature

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## Waterfowl ID Challenge

### From Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Mystery birds by Evan Lipton (left) and Frank Lin / Macaulay Library.

It's that time of year for waterfowl and we can all use a refresher with IDs. Cornell Lab of Ornithology recently had this quiz in an email:

### Which Species Are These? Spot the Differences

Here are two dapper ducks with red bills and green heads. **Can you spot how they differ?**

During winter these "sawbills" seek out open water to meet their fish-nabbing needs. The bird on the left is common in freshwater lakes and rivers; the one on the right lives closer to coasts, as well as in the Great Lakes.

Reveal the answers and sharpen your skills with [these ID tips and a replayable SnapID quiz](#).

"We have the choice to use the gift of our life to make the world a better place – or not to bother."

— Jane Goodall

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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)

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)

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recordingxtagendz

### Greater Akron Audubon Society

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

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



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