



Upcoming Programs and Events

Turkey Vultures: Rockin' and Glidin'

Saturday, March 18, 2023 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Liberty Park Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087



Join a naturalist with Summit Metro Parks to learn about turkey vultures' unusual habits, extraordinary adaptations and important role in our ecosystem. Following the presentation, you'll hit the trail in hopes of watching them in action as they rock and glide on thermals overhead.



Art Exhibit at Roger Tory Peterson Institute

Hope is the Thing with Feathers: Contemporary Women Nature Artists

March 18 – June 11, 2023

311 Curtis Street,



European Pied Flycatcher by Carmen Osterman

This exhibit includes work by five women whose art practice explores the paradoxically powerful and fragile nature of birds and the ecosystems in which they live. With cautionary tales and messages of hope and recovery, the artists reveal intersections between nature and culture, ultimately using their art to advocate for conservation. By incorporating scientific research and data into their art, they hope to inspire in the viewer a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the cultural and environmental importance of birds. The artists featured in *Hope is the Thing with Feathers* encourage us to consider the ways in which humans leave an indelible impact on the natural world, and the ways in which we are affected by nature in turn.



Art Exhibit at Roger Tory Peterson Institute

Alex Warnick: The Art of Observation

March 18 – June 11, 2023

311 Curtis Street,

Jamestown, NY 14701



Roger Tory Peterson Institute: Alex Warnick

Running concurrently with the exhibit shown above is another by Alex Warnick, who was the inaugural artist-in-residence at the RTPI. Like Roger, Alex was born in Jamestown, New York. She likewise fell in love with birds at an early age: “My interest in birds began as a little girl watching my brother draw a cardinal from the cover of an old Peterson Guide. In elementary school I would draw birds on poster board, write reports to accompany them, and even create meticulous mobiles of the undersides of hawks to hang above my bed.”

Like Roger, Alex studied art and has made a career of painting birds. A graduate of Brigham Young University-Idaho with a BA in integrated studio art, Alex was the 2016 recipient of the *Eckelberry Endowment* from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. As a birder and artist, she is fascinated by the aesthetics of birds. With her paintings, Warnick explores the interactions between the shapes, colors, and patterns of birds and their environments, inviting viewers to appreciate the uniqueness of each avian subject. Her artwork has been featured on the cover of *Birder's Guide*, published by the American Birding Association, and in the pages of *Audubon Magazine*, as well as on the cover of the September/October issue of *BWD* magazine.

During her artist-in-residence week at RTPI, Alex enjoyed full access to the Peterson Collection, the world's largest collection of Roger's original artwork, films, photographs, and papers. “This residency,” Alex shared, “is going to influence my work throughout the rest of my career.” For a first glimpse of what she means, RTPI has invited Alex to exhibit work created in response to the residency.



GAAS March Program (Live)

Chuck Jakubchak: *Feathered Miracles*

Tuesday, March 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

*****Note New Location*****

Goodyear Heights Lodge - West Room

Goodyear Heights Metro Park
2077 Newton St., Akron OH 44305



Feathered Miracles overviews common birds and the miraculous roles they play in our lives. Birds are more than just beautiful and this presentation will discuss how they contribute to our environment and actually benefit mankind. Lots of colorful photos, interesting facts and a few travel tips will help entertain and educate all who attend.

Bird Walks & Field Trips

Focus on Waterfowl Migration

Sunday, March 19, 2023 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Portage Lakes State Park

5031 Manchester Rd, Akron, OH 44319

March is prime season for migrating waterfowl. Join Brian Tinker and Ned DeLamatre at Portage Lakes State Park to see what may have flown in at Turkeyfoot Lake. Enter at Portage Lakes State Park sign and drive all the way down the entrance road until you reach the back parking lot near the beach area. Park and meet in the back right corner of the parking lot.



Lesser Scaup Photo: Bob Burns

Waterfowl Watch

Friday, March 24, 2023 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Tinkers Creek Area of Liberty Park

10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro, OH 44241

Spring is a great time to view ducks, geese, sand hill cranes and other migratory birds. New and experienced birdwatchers can join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist for a chance to view these birds during spring migration. We will begin at the Tinkers Creek Area, then caravan to Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope.



Checking out Firestone Metro Park

Sunday, March 26, 2023 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Tuscarawas Meadows Area of Firestone Metro Park

2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319

Join Brian Tinker and Ned DeLamatre to discover what migratory and year-round species may be hanging out at Firestone Metro Park. Meet at the bridge near the Tuscarawas Meadows parking lot. Bring binoculars and keen ears.



News You Can Use

Results of the Great Backyard Bird Count are In!



The results are amazing! Half a million people from 199 countries were out birding February 17 – 20, 2023. Although the *final* numbers won't be in until April 1, 2023, the Cornell Lab, National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada gave a shout out to thank everyone for participating in the 26th Annual Count, the biggest ever! Collectively, bird enthusiasts identified 7415 of the world's bird species. Watch an inspiring thank you video ([Great Backyard Bird Count 2023: Thank You! - YouTube](#)), watch the world map light up as checklists roll in from around the world, or explore the data collected over the four-day observation period at <https://www.birdcount.org/> And mark your calendars for next year, when people will connect with birds once again, February 16–19, 2024!

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**North American birds are in decline. Here are 8 simple ways you can help**



Although this NPR story was updated almost a year ago, the info it contains remains fresh and inspiring. The Greater Akron Audubon Society is choosing to focus on individual actions that we can all take in our home spaces to help birds survive and thrive. Listen as Audrey Nguyen, a birder and reporter for NPR, interviews Miyoko Chu, director of communications at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology: [How you can help North American birds during migration : Life Kit : NPR](#)

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## 4 Universal Landscape Goals

By Doug Tallamy



(Excerpt from a recent HNP newsletter)

There are four ecological functions every landscape must perform if we are to achieve a sustainable relationship with the natural world that supports us (and continuing to insist on landscapes that do not sustain mother nature is not and has never been a realistic option).

It's really very simple; our landscapes must do the things that enable ecosystems to produce the life support we and every other species requires.

- They must support a diverse community of pollinators throughout the growing season.
- They must provide energy for the local food web.
- They must manage the watershed in which they lie.
- They must remove carbon from the atmosphere where it is wreaking havoc on the earth's climate.

How well a landscape accomplishes these goals depends on how well we, as landscape managers, choose and deploy the plants on our landscapes. Read more here: [4 Universal Landscape Goals - By Doug Tallamy — HOME GROWN NATIONAL PARK](#)

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## More Native Plant Sales



Native Plant Kits are selling fast for Spring 2023! The Woodland Shade Kit is already sold out but other selections such as the Pollinator Kit, the Deer Resilient Kit and the Rain Garden Kit are still available for ordering until May 12, 2023 or until they sell out. Orders must be placed in person or by mail using cash or check only and must be picked up in person at the Medina SWCD, 6090 Wedgewood Rd., Medina, OH 44256 on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For details and order forms, see [Native Plant Sales – Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District \(medinaswcd.org\)](#)

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2023 Sandhill Crane Count



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*):ODNR Photo

(From Dwight Chasar, Summit County Coordinator of the Sandhill Crane Count)

The Ohio Sandhill Crane count has been scheduled for April 15, 2023 from 6:30 to 8:30 am. A general announcement for the state will be put out soon. As per last year, there will be a training session, as some protocols have changed and eBird will be used again to report results.

I would like to assign volunteers to a block or nearby where they live. I don't know at this time whether additional blocks have been added to Summit County, but some additional counties will be added to the survey. If you are interested in participating in the count, please tell me a town near where you live in Summit County; that info would be helpful when making the assignments.

Thanks.

Dwight Chasar (ascdwc43@yahoo.com)

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## Why Are Purple Martins Declining in the United States?

(Mercury contamination in their Amazonian wintering grounds may play a role)

As the Smithsonian's National Zoo prepares to open its reimagined and beloved Bird House, the magazine's online presence invites readers to explore the fascinating science of our feathery friends in a series entitled, *The Wonderful World of Birds*. This article is part of that series and was published February 21, 2023. It was written by Jill Langlois, an independent journalist based in São Paulo, Brazil. Her work has appeared in publications such as *National Geographic*, the *New York Times* and the *Guardian*.



Purple martins perch on a branch in the Brazilian Amazon. Ramiro Dário Melinski

Read about how COVID-19 altered a graduate student's plans to return to Arizona to complete work on his Master's thesis on the eastern North American subspecies of the Purple Martin. The species is in decline at a rate of almost 1 percent a year. Through a collaboration with citizen scientists and scientists in the United States and Brazil, the culprit, mercury poisoning, was identified and is suspected to negatively impact the species' ability to accumulate fat. The birds likely pick up the mercury in their winter home in the Amazon Basin. After they fly up to North America, the heavy metal in their bodies likely makes them unable to store fat, leaving them without enough energy to migrate south every year. This story is yet another example of how people, animals, plants and their environment are all connected and understanding those connections can be directly linked to bettering conditions for humans. "We see ourselves as different, as a species that isn't affected by changes that we ourselves are promoting on the earth. But it's a huge mistake that could cost us our existence," a quote from Erika Hingst-Zaher, the biologist studying animal and ecosystem health, who also oversaw the work. Read the story: [Why Are Purple Martins Declining in the United States? | Science| Smithsonian Magazine](#)

## Test your Shorebird ID Skills!



The Cornell Lab (instructor Kevin McGowan, Ph.D.) has put together another course on Shorebirds. ***Be a Better Birder: Shorebird Identification*** is an upgrade to a previous online Shorebird ID course and through March 21, 2023, it is \$45 off the regular price. Sixteen online lessons cover 47 species of shorebirds in the U.S. and Canada and over 200 minutes of self-paced instruction plus practice tools to review what you've learned.

The Lab is offering a free downloadable ***Shorebird ID Guide*** [Shorebird pocket guide\[32\].pdf \(hubspotusercontent-na1.net\)](#), a quiz [Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper | Bird Academy • The Cornell Lab \(allaboutbirds.org\)](#), and a 7-minute video on shorebird foraging strategies ( [Shorebird Foraging Strategies | Bird Academy • The Cornell Lab \(allaboutbirds.org\)](#) to entice us.

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Put those Expensive Eggshells to Good Use!



Did you know that we can help nesting birds by boosting their calcium stores if we provide crushed eggshells? Rinse the used eggshells off in the sink, spread them out on a cookie sheet, and bake them in the oven at about 250 degrees for 10 minutes. You just want the shells to dry, not brown. Then crush them up and spread them on the ground or mix them in with bird seed. And remember to wash your hands after handling raw eggs.

More about the Upcoming Reauthorization of the Farm Bill



The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has introduced a three-pronged platform that would help strengthen programs that are known to make a difference in the conservation of grassland birds. In the previous eNews, there was an Action Alert from ABC. On February 22, 2023, ABC presented a webinar about the Farm Bill and has offered the recording, [From Working Land to Table: Strengthening the U.S. Farm Bill for Farmers and Birds | ABC Webinar - YouTube](#), to share with friends. Included in the synopsis is a timeline showing each of the four presenters.



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

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Greater Akron Audubon Society

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