



## **Upcoming Programs and Events**

### **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**

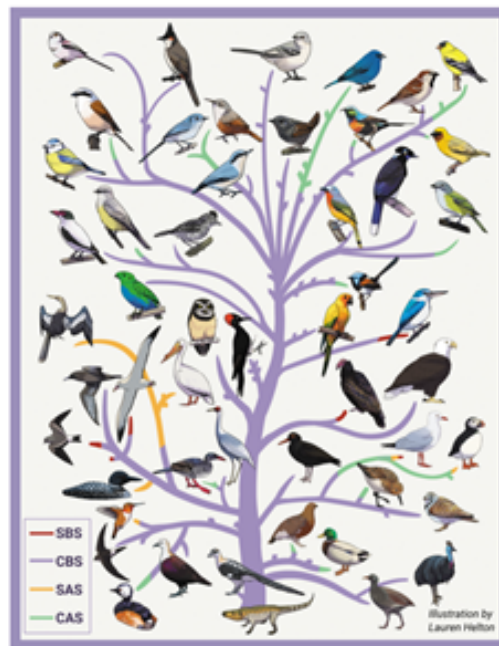
**2077 Newton Street, Akron OH 44305**



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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**Free Webinar from Institute for Bird Populations**  
**An Evolutionary Perspective On Molt**  
**Presented by IBP Biologist Peter Pyle**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2024 2:00 p.m.**



**An Evolutionary Perspective On Molt**

Peter Pyle will discuss how the four main molt strategies defined by Howell et al. (2003) may have evolved along lineages of an evolutionary tree. An evolutionary perspective makes the endeavor of understanding avian molt less daunting. "Once one envisions the evolutionary bases of H-P [the

Humphrey-Parkes system of molt and plumage terminology], the categorization and study of molts becomes much less confusing, much more satisfying, and actually rather enjoyable," says Pyle, who was also the 2023 recipient of the American Birding Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Pre-registration is required for this deep dive on molt: [Molt Evolution Webinar Registration Page \(constantcontactpages.com\)](https://constantcontactpages.com/RegistrationPage).



**BirdNote (Virtual) Event**  
**Igniting Conservation Through Photography**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**  
**3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**BirdNote** 

**IGNITING CONSERVATION THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Wednesday, March 27 • 12pm PT / 3pm ET

Join BirdNote for a captivating conversation featuring an esteemed panel of photographers who will share their experiences, breathtaking captures, and insights into how stunning imagery can inspire action for birds. Plus, stick around to hear the winners of BirdNote's 19th Birthday Photo Contest!

**To register for this free event, visit [BirdNote.org](https://BirdNote.org).**

 <p><b>Moderator</b> <b>Walter Kitundu</b> Artist, instrument builder, bird photographer</p>	 <p><b>Panelist</b> <b>Melissa Groo</b> Wildlife photographer, writer, conservationist</p>
 <p><b>Panelist</b> <b>Tim Laman</b> Field biologist, wildlife photojournalist, filmmaker</p>	 <p><b>Panelist</b> <b>Day Scott</b> Wildlife conservationist, photographer, educator</p>

Join BirdNote for a captivating conversation featuring an esteemed panel of talented bird and wildlife photographers! Photographers Melissa Groo, Tim Laman and Day Scott, and moderator Walter Kitundu, will share their experiences, breathtaking captures, and insights into how stunning imagery can inspire positive change for birds and the environment.

The winners of BirdNote's 19th Birthday Photo Contest will be announced at the end of the free event. Register in advance: [Igniting Conservation through Photography Tickets, Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/igniting-conservation-through-photography-tickets-70407272717); a link to the recording will be available following the event.



**Environment for the Americas**

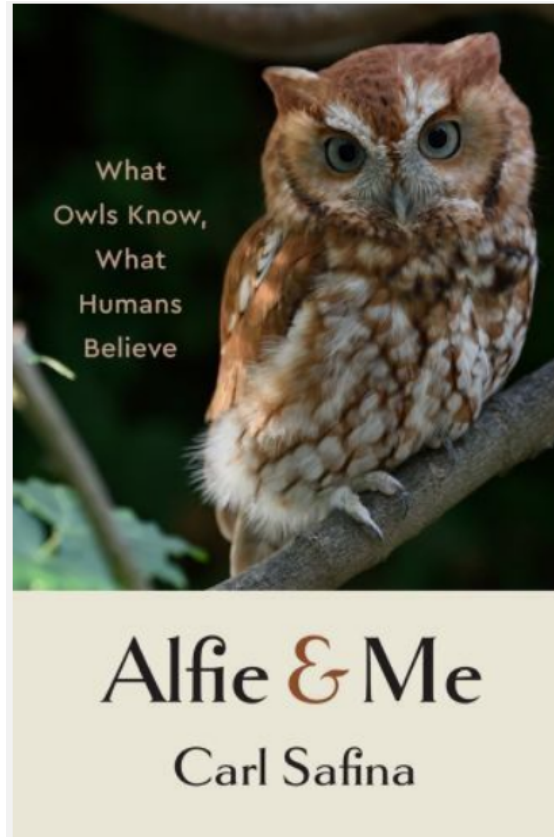
**Bird Book Club (Virtual)**

***Alfie and Me: What Owls Know, What Humans Believe***

**With Author Carl Safina**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**8:00 p.m.**



Environment for the Americas invites birders, conservationists, or anyone interested in human-wildlife links as they join author Carl Safina for ***Alfie and Me: What Owls Know, What Humans Believe*** as he discusses Alfie's care, companionship, growth, and trust in inter-species relationships. Register in advance for the Zoom meeting: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

**Pre-Eclipse Clean-up Event**

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

**8:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Blimp City Bike & Hike**

1675 Merriman Rd., Akron, OH 44313



**PRESERVE THE VALLEY.COM**  
CITIZEN ACTION GROUP

## **Clean up the Valley for the Path of Totality!**

Join citizen action group ***Preserve the Valley*** in cleaning up the Merriman Valley in preparation for the upcoming total solar eclipse so that visitors from around the country experience a clean and welcoming environment! Be prepared to pick up trash on roadside (wear gloves and reflective attire). Trash bags, recycling bags, and snacks will be provided. Teams will be given directions to assigned cleanup areas. Or help in other ways: donate water, snacks, or use of trucks for picking up trash bags; spread the word to friends, family, and local businesses. In the event of inclement weather, the cleanup will be rescheduled to April 13, at the same time and location. Fill out this form to let *Preserve the Valley* know how you plan to help: [bit.ly/3wNuWNO](https://bit.ly/3wNuWNO)

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**Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
2024 Native Plant Backyard Challenge  
Registration Closes April 7, 2024**



Fiona McCarthy, the new Stewardship Engagement Coordinator at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center has reached out to all Ohio Audubon Society chapters to promote the Native Plant Backyard Challenge (NPBC) statewide. The challenge began in 2021 in the Columbus, Ohio area and, to date, over 500 households have taken the challenge spanning 47 zip codes across Ohio.

The mission of the NPBYC is to promote community science through education and hands-on experiential learning about native plants and wildlife by recruiting households to transform their back (or front!) yards into native habitats. The challenge works to ensure that participants learn simple cost-effective steps to create native habitat, and become ambassadors for birds and native plants in their community. To learn more or to register, see [2024 Native Plant Backyard Challenge | Grange Insurance Audubon Center](#).

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## **Bird Walks**

### **Summit Metro Parks Program**

#### **Waterfowl Watch**

**Saturday, March 30, 2024**

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve**

**1230 Old Mill Rd., Aurora, OH 44202**



Spring is a great time to view ducks geese, swans and other waterfowl. Join a naturalist with Summit Metro Parks to explore Eagle Point and Seven Ponds Trails during migration. Bring binoculars.

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**Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Bird Watching: Woodcock Watch**

**Friday, April 5, 2024**

**7:45 – 9:30 p.m.**

**15610 Vaughn Rd., Brecksville, OH 44141**



The American Woodcock (aka timberdoodle) is an unusual shorebird that is normally cloaked in camouflage. If weather conditions are right, there is an excellent chance of seeing the unique 300-ft “sky dance” mating spectacle. Be prepared for walking and standing in wet grass and mud. Bring a flashlight.

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**News You Can Use**

**American Bird Conservancy**

**Conservation and Justice Fellowships**

**Call for Applications Through March 31, 2024**



Effectively protecting wild birds throughout the Americas requires the creativity, dedication, and participation of far more people than are currently involved. American Bird Conservancy's (ABC's) Conservation and Justice Fellowship program provides opportunities to examine and expand how we care for both birds and people. Their paid, part-time fellowships allow individuals with a wide range of backgrounds and expertise to work closely with our staff and partners on understanding how bird conservation efforts can support local communities, ensure the consideration of varied perspectives, and engage more people. Through reciprocal learning, mentoring, community engagement, and the abundant inspiration inherent in wild birds and places, ABC seeks to provide Fellows with access to new insights and career possibilities. They are offering nine paid, flexible, part-time Conservation and Justice Fellowships ([Fellowship Projects - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org/fellowship-projects)) in the form of \$10,000 stipends for early career Storytelling Fellows and \$20,000 for mid-career Community Engagement Fellows. Learn more and apply here: [ABC Conservation and Justice Fellowships - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org/conservation-and-justice-fellowships).

Please forward this item to someone in your life who may be interested.



**It's Almost Plant Time!**

**General Gardening Tips for Native Plantings**





Our friends at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes have put together resources for native gardening at home, whether you have a yard, a small balcony, or a patio. Native gardening not only supports local biodiversity, but also requires less maintenance compared to traditional gardening practices. However, like any garden, maintaining a manicured and professional look with a native garden does require some attention and care. As we prepare for Native Plant month, these practical tips will help refresh the basics:

## [Container Gardening](#)

and

## [Yard/Garden](#)

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**Migration is Already Underway!**

**Tips from National Audubon:**

**Make Our Home Spaces More Bird-friendly**



As our chapter attends more tabling events throughout the year, we focus on the theme of protecting birds in our home spaces. This one-page graphic is an example of the types of handouts we have available for the public. [Bird Friendly Yard Tips 2023 \(1\).pdf](#) | [Powered by Box](#)

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## **Why Do Woodpeckers Like to Hammer on Houses? And What Can I Do About It?**



**Woodpecker damage due to foraging for carpenter bee larva on cedar trim boards of a house.**

Graphic from Cornell Lab: All About Birds

Speaking of tabling events, one of the questions we get asked about the most is what to do to stop woodpeckers from pecking at the siding on our homes. Once you know why woodpeckers are hammering on your house, you can develop strategies for stopping them. Researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have studied woodpecker damage to houses to develop recommendations. Bottom line: the researchers reported that nothing deterred woodpeckers all the time, and only streamers worked with any consistency.

Check out the info that they've compiled: [Why do woodpeckers like to hammer on houses? And what can I do about it? | All About Birds](#)

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**GAAS May Program Speaker**  
**Featured in Ohio Magazine E-news**



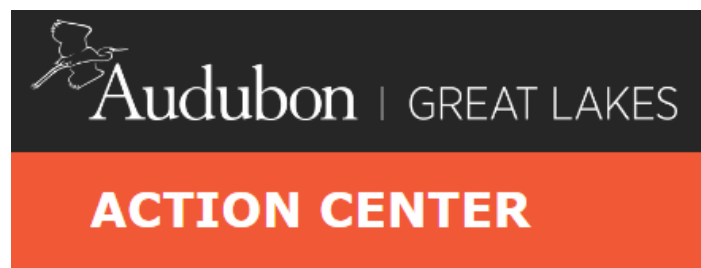
Jim McCormac will be giving the Bert Szabo Legacy Address for Greater Akron Audubon Society in May at Himelright Lodge in Cascade Valley Metro Park. Recently, he was featured in Ohio Magazine's e-news as "Moth Man." Please help spread the news that Jim will be in our area on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, when he'll be offering thoughts and photos that will tempt us to garden for moths in our own home spaces. Read the short interview with Jim here: [Naturalist Jim McCormac on Gardening for Moths \(ohiomagazine.com\)](https://ohiomagazine.com/naturalist-jim-mccormac-on-gardening-for-moths)



### **Advocacy Opportunity**

#### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024**

**(H.R. 7257/S. 3738)**



Marnie Urso, Senior Policy Director at Audubon Great Lakes asks us to join in the effort to advocate for Great Lakes birds. She and other staff at Audubon Great Lakes were recently in D.C. to meet with Members of Congress on the importance of extending the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Extending this critical federal restoration program will make the Great Lakes stronger and more resilient for the birds that depend on them. As the largest source of federal funding to protect the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has funded more than 7,000 restoration projects to keep our waters clean and restore our wildlife habitat – including much of Audubon's work in the region. Please ask your Members of Congress to reauthorize funding for this vital program for an additional 5

years by passing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024 (H.R. 7257/S. 3738).

[Tell Congress to Protect the Great Lakes | Audubon Great Lakes](#)

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**From American Bird Conservancy E-news**  
**Mosquito Control Project Launched**  
**To Save Hawai'i's Imperiled Honeycreepers**



Ākohekohe. Photo by Jim Denny.

Avian malaria from introduced mosquitoes is one of the gravest threats to Hawai'i's honeycreepers, so it might come as a surprise that one of the most effective ways to stop malaria's spread is to release mosquitoes into the environment. These aren't just any mosquitoes, though.

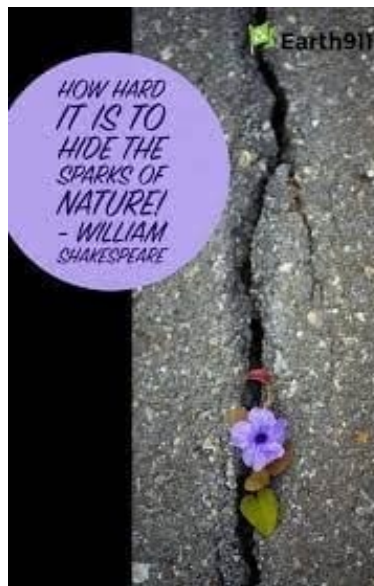
*Birds, Not Mosquitoes*, a multi-agency partnership, has started releasing non-biting male Southern House Mosquitoes that don't carry disease, but they do carry a strain of a naturally-occurring bacteria that helps to reduce the mosquito population. Find out how this effort is solving a major conservation challenge and providing hope for Hawai'i's native birds like the 'Ākohekohe. Read more about the effort that has also been safely used to control the spread of human diseases by mosquitoes around the world. [Mosquito Control Project to Save Honeycreepers Underway on Maui and Kaua'i - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#).

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**New to Birding?**  
**Have a Listen to Chirp Chat**



Although this NPR podcast originates from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area, the info it shares is still good for all who wish to start learning the birds (and their songs) they encounter daily and beyond. [Chirp Chat : NPR](#)



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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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](http://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

**Find us on Facebook:** @greaterakronaudubon

recordingxtagendz

## Greater Akron Audubon Society

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