

Vol. 3 # 13  
3-26-2023



## Upcoming Programs and Events

**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.

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**National Wildlife Refuge Association**  
**(Virtual Program)**  
**Addressing The Refuge Staffing Crisis**  
**Thursday, March 30, 2023 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**



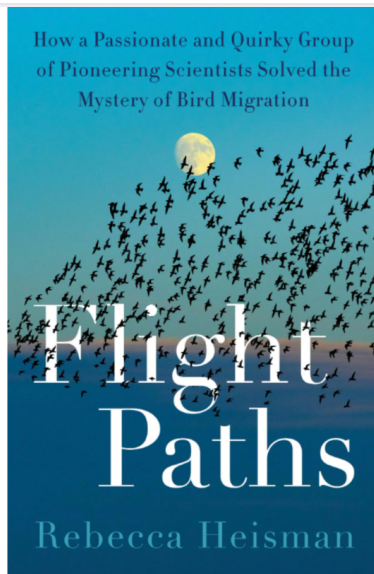
**NATIONAL**  
**Wildlife Refuge**  
**ASSOCIATION**

The National Wildlife Refuge System, the nation's largest network of lands and waters dedicated to wildlife conservation, is facing a staffing crisis that threatens its ability to protect biodiversity and provide recreational opportunities for all. Despite being essential for protecting endangered species, conserving habitats, and connecting communities with nature, the Refuge System has lost over 800 permanent positions since fiscal year 2011, resulting in an enormous 25% loss in capacity.

In response to this dire situation, the National Wildlife Refuge Association is focusing its efforts in the 118th Congress to raise awareness of this issue and secure the necessary funds to sufficiently staff the Refuge System. Join Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy, Libby Marking, for a conversation about the National Wildlife Refuge Association's Refuge Staffing Campaign. Register in advance: [Webinar Refuge Staffing Crisis \(salsalabs.org\)](https://www.salsalabs.org).

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**Environment for the Americas Bird Book Club**  
**Virtual Program**  
***Flight Paths* with Author Rebecca Heisman**



***Flight Paths*** tells the captivating, little-known story of a group of scientists and the methods and technology they developed to uncover the secrets of avian migration. This book shares *how* we know what we know about bird migration. Join *Environment for the Americas* for a webinar with author Rebecca Heisman to learn more about her book and the research behind it. Pre-register here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

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**Bird Nerds: Sparrows**

**Saturday, April 8, 2023 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

**F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center**

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



Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are invited to join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist to explore a new group of birds each month of 2023. Adaptations, behavior, identification and more will be presented. Bring binoculars if you have them because, after the presentation, there will be a walk to practice field identification.

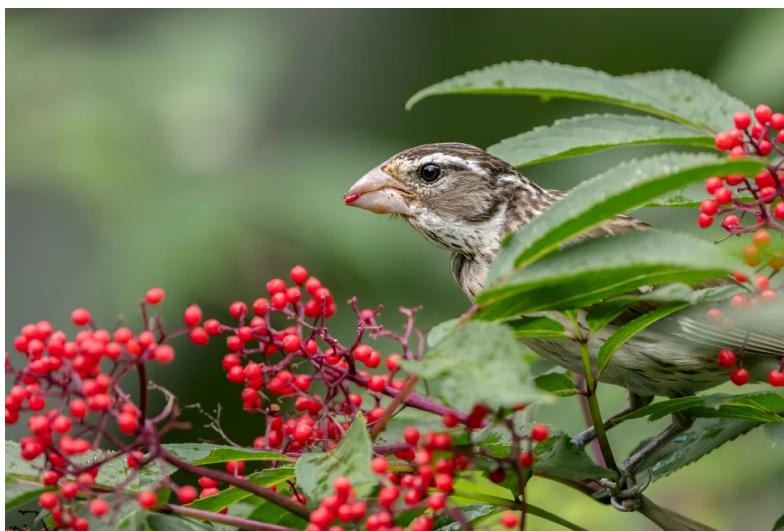
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## **Native Plant Open House**

**Sunday, April 9, 2023 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center**

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



Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Red Elderberry. Photo: Shirley Donald/Audubon Photography Awards

Drop-in to discover the beauty, resilience and ecological importance of native plants through a variety of interactive table-top activities. A naturalist will be on hand to answer questions and provide landscaping insight. Seed packets will be available, while supplies last.

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## **Bird Walks & Field Trips**

**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**



Eastern Bluebird

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.

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**April Fool's Woodcock Walk**

**Saturday, April 1, 2023 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Oenslager Nature Center**

**6100 Ridge Rd.**

**Sharon Township**

**(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)**



American Woodcock Photo: Photo: Rodney Campbell, National Audubon

No joke! There is a bird that nests in Ohio that has a flexible bill, sings with its wings, and dances for its dinner.

Celebrate this April Fool's Day by learning more about this unusual bird and taking a hike to try to see one in action. All ages are welcome. No registration is required.

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### **Waterfowl Watch**

**Saturday, April 08, 2023 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Liberty Park**

**Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve Area**

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



Common Loon Photo: Margaret Gompper/Audubon Photography Awards

Spring is a great time to view ducks, geese, swans and other waterfowl. New and experienced birdwatchers can join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist to explore Eagle Point and Seven Ponds Trail during migration. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope.

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### **Dance with the Woodcock**

**Saturday, April 8, 2023 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Liberty Park Nature Center**

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

Discover the amazing woodcock and attempt to witness the male bird's spectacular courtship flight over the fields as the sun sets for the evening. Listen for the "peent" and whistling sounds the male birds make as they try to attract a mate.

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## **News You Can Use**

**Coffee & Customer Service:**

**Plans for the Former Brandywine Golf Course**

**(A Virtual Presentation, Pre-registration Required)**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

### **Former Brandywine Golf Course**



This casual monthly Zoom session presented by the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park will feature Stacey Rusher, the Conservancy's Park Project Director, and Chris Davis, CVNP's Plant Ecologist. Bring your own coffee and hear about upcoming plans for the former Brandywine Golf Course property. Can't tune in live? Not a problem!

Everyone who registers will receive a recording of the program. To reserve a spot through Eventbrite see [Coffee & Customer Service – Plans for the Former Brandywine Golf Course Registration, Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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## Young Birders Event at Cornell Lab of Ornithology June 29 – July 2, 2023



Photo courtesy of the Cornell Lab

The Young Birders Event aims to bring together teenagers with a passion for birds and interested in pursuing a career in the field. You'll meet people who have successful careers that involve birds in a variety of ways – from ornithological researchers to tour leaders, to audio specialists and computer scientists. High school-aged young birders (students entering grades 9-12 in the fall) are invited **to fill out an application form by March 31, 2023**. Sixteen young birders will be chosen and applicants will be notified of their status in early April. Slight preference is given to students entering 12th grade and students who have previously applied. The event will feature:

- two days of field trips
- presentations by Cornell Lab of Ornithology staff including professors, researchers, and students who will share various ways to incorporate birds into a career
- eBird and sound recording workshop
- tour of Cornell Lab including the Macaulay Library and Museum of Vertebrates
- dinner with Cornell Lab staff

For more information and the application form, see [Young Birders Event - eBird](#)

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## Wood Stork May Disappear from Endangered Species List



Wood Storks Photo: Trudy Walden/Audubon Photography Awards

Last month, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a news release that indicated restoration of the Wood Stork's habitat in the Florida Everglades and Big Cypress National Preserve was so successful that the species that once was on the brink of extinction has rebounded and has increased its range. The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed removing the bird from the endangered species list and is taking comments on the proposal through April 17, 2023; after that date they will publish a final decision. The Endangered Species Act is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and has helped save 99% of the species on the list since its beginning in 1973. Read more about the news from this **USA Today** story published February 18, 2023: [Wood stork to be removed from threatened and endangered species list \(usatoday.com\)](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nature/2023/02/18/wood-stork-removed-endangered-species-list/123456789)

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### Attention High School Students

### Applications Now Being Accepted for Camp Canopy

**June 11 – 16, 2023**  
**FFA Camp Muskingum**  
**3266 Dyewood Rd SW**  
**Carrollton, OH 44615**

What began in 1950 as Camp Canopy (formerly known as Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp) has grown into one of the most popular summer camps among high schoolers in Ohio, hosting 10,000+ campers since its inception. Camp Canopy is a week-long resident camp where campers experience the outdoors through hands-on classes and activities on forestry, wildlife, and the natural world. It's also a great opportunity for

young minds to learn about natural resources, network with professionals, and learn how to go on to pursue degrees/jobs in the field. Many students have taken what they learned during their summer(s) spent at Camp Canopy and have gone on to study natural resource disciplines at their post-secondary institutions, while others have simply learned a ton of cool stuff related to forestry and wildlife in Ohio. Either way, Camp Canopy's legacy will live on in generations of adventure-seeking, nature-lovin' campers to come. Over \$5,000 in college scholarships will be given out at the end of the camp week. Watch a video about the camp: [Camp Canopy – YouTube](#)

*Discover Forestry. Discover Wildlife. Discover Adventure*



**June 11-16, 2023**

Registration is open at  
**[campcanopy.com](http://campcanopy.com)**

Students who have completed the eighth grade through high school seniors graduating in 2023 are eligible to attend.

Camp Canopy 2023 will explore forests and creeks with sessions focused on **tree ID, insects, fungi, and amphibians.**

Join us at the beautiful FFA Camp Muskingum on Leesville Lake!

To learn more about the camp and find a registration form, visit the website: [Camp Canopy – Discover Forestry | Discover Wildlife | Discover Adventure](#)

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# AKRON CANDIDATE FORUM ENVIROMENTAL JUSTICE

APRIL 1, 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT WAITING  
NEITHER ARE WE!

AT H.Ü.G.

133 Merriman Rd. Akron, OH

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

2 PM - 4 PM MAYORAL CANDIDATES

For more information email [bigloveakron@gmail.com](mailto:bigloveakron@gmail.com) 330.827.0457



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The upcoming primary election, to be held on May 2, 2023, could effectively decide the next mayor and the many policies of a new city council and administration. If you live in the City of Akron, be an informed voter. **Preserve the Valley**, a volunteer citizen action coalition dedicated to engaging and amplifying citizens' voices in protecting and planning for the future of the Cuyahoga Valley region, also recently compiled an **Environmental Voters' Guide 2023** by asking each Akron Mayoral, At-Large and Ward Council candidate four questions as a Voter Service Activity. See the voter guide here: [VOTER GUIDE | Preserve the Valley](#)

**Coalition of 65+ Groups Urge EPA to Reform Bee- and Bird-Killing Pesticides**



In more news from last month, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and American Bird Conservancy (ABC) submitted a regulatory filing with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of 65 nonprofit groups. The filing proposes major reforms in the way the agency regulates systemic insecticides and focuses in particular on neonicotinoids (neonics), systemic pesticides often applied as agricultural seed coatings that have caused excessive honey bee deaths, native bee declines, and bird mortalities since their introduction more than 20 years ago. At issue is the 1984 regulatory waiver that allows companies to register pesticides without first submitting data on the costs versus the benefits of application. “We have overwhelming proof that neonicotinoids are devastating to birds such as the Eastern Bluebird and insects. One seed coated with a neonic can kill a songbird, which is to say nothing of the millions of birds impacted by the loss of beneficial invertebrates from neonic pollution,” said Hardy Kern, Director of Government Relations for ABC’s Pesticides and Birds Campaign. “Despite this evidence that neonics are deadly, there is no requirement that chemical manufacturers show their products even work as intended.” Read more about the filing in ABC’s news release: [Coalition of 65+ Groups Urge EPA to Reform Bee- and Bird-Killing Pesticides – American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)



## **National Audubon Society Announces Decision to Retain Current Name**

After more than a year of conversations, analyses of survey responses from National Audubon staff, members, volunteers, donors, chapters, partners and other outreach partners, the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society (NAS) announced last week that it has decided to retain the name of the organization.

Susan Bell, Chair of the National Audubon Society’s Board of Directors, stated, “...The name has come to represent so much more than the work of one person, but a broader love of birds and nature, and a non-partisan approach to conservation. We must reckon with the racist legacy of John James Audubon and embody our EDIB values in all that we do. In doing so, we will ensure that Audubon stands for an inclusive future in which we unite diverse coalitions to protect birds and the places they need.”

Simultaneously, NAS announced a new \$25 million commitment to fund the expansion of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB)-specific work in both internal and conservation initiatives over the next five years. Read the official announcement here: [National Audubon Society Announces Decision to Retain Current Name | Audubon](#). Dr. Elizabeth Gray, CEO of NAS, penned an open letter to members: [Open Letter from the CEO on Audubon’s Name | Audubon](#). And NAS released an informative guide with FAQs for members who wish to understand the process that was involved in the decision: [Frequently Asked Questions About the Audubon Name | Audubon](#).

On the heels of the announcement, headlines like this made the news: ***POLITICO: Backlash hits Audubon after refusal to drop slave-holder’s name*** (<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/16/audubon-board-members-resign-00087423>) and our own regional director to the National board, Erin Giese, resigned her position the following day.

In a letter to chapter leaders from Kim Brand, Interim Vice-President for Network, writes, “Chapters are an essential part of what makes NAS a strong and impactful force for

conservation. We know the Board's decision prompts many questions and strong feelings. Some chapters have already announced their intention to change their name, while others may elect to keep Audubon in their name. I want to emphasize that the NAS board's decision impacts the name of our national organization. As independently incorporated entities, each chapter has the autonomy and authority to make decisions in respect to their naming as best serves their needs. Whatever your chapter's name, we hope to work closely with you to move forward as one unified community."

The National board's decision has prompted *strong* feelings and as a result, *our chapter would like to hear your opinions*. Feel free to email or share anonymously at our four upcoming program meetings. This is an opportunity for all members to voice their opinions about a possible name change at our local level.

The mission of the NAS remains the same: *National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. State programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners give Audubon an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon believes in a world in which people and wildlife thrive.*

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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)

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**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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