



Upcoming Programs and Events



The Ohio Bluebird Society 2022 Annual Conference (Virtual)

Theme: *Beyond the Basics*

See the presenter line-up and view at your convenience. Presentations will be available on the OBS website **by Saturday, March 5, 2022**. You can view as your time permits and as often as you want. Educational videos and articles will continue to be added throughout the year. [Ohio Bluebird Society](https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org) [2022 full program description \(ohiobluebirdsociety.org\)](https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org)



BioBlitz your Backyard (Virtual Program)

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

In this final program of this series, presenters Rose Mary Burns, Linda Dole, and Carol Blake, Master Gardeners, and Suzanne Westlake, Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District, will show us how to take an inventory of what lives in our backyards. Register here if you have not attended prior programs in the series: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



CFAES OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Ohio Woodlands Stewards Program

Friday's
ESCAPE TO THE FOREST

Take a break to relax and visit the woods with us...

On Fridays, we post information on Ohio's woodland, wildlife, invasive species, managements recommendations, and more!

woodlandstewards.osu.edu/resources

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

WEBINAR
Friday, March 18 @ 10 am – 12 pm

Every year, spring brings hillsides painted with Eastern redbud and valleys full of daffodils. But overhead, the skies are full of brilliantly colored warblers, tanagers, and grosbeaks. Join SENR's **Matt Shumar**, for an in-depth look at the phenology of spring bird migration in Ohio.

Register at go.osu.edu/springbirds

Here Come the Birds - The Joy of Spring Migration! (Virtual)

Matt Shumar: Friday, March 18, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Every year, spring brings the obvious signs of renewal: hillsides painted with Eastern Redbud and valleys full of daffodils. But overhead, the skies are full of brilliantly colored warblers, tanagers, and grosbeaks making their way from Central and South America to lush temperate breeding grounds in North America. Join Matt Shumar, Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative Coordinator, for an in-depth look at the phenology of spring bird migration in Ohio. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



GAAS March Program

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Shady Hollow Lodge in Sand Run Metro Park

1750 Sand Run Parkway, Akron, OH 44313

(Note location and see note below)

Wyoga Lake Conservation Association

The Wyoga Lake Conservation Association is a 501(c)3 organization that was revitalized in 2015 and is responsible for the 60 acres of forest that are adjacent to the park and the neighborhood in Stow, Ohio. The Association has applied for and received USDA EQIP grants to create a butterfly garden, pollinator garden, forester reports and to preserve the forest. **Bill Whitlock**, past President of the Association, will provide some history as well as some more recent activities of the group.

Please Note: Do not rely on your GPS to direct you to this location. Shady Hollow Lodge is most reliably approached from the east via the intersection of N. Portage Path and Sand Run Parkway.



Virtual Programs

Attend by going to <https://zoom.us/join> and keying in the Meeting ID

Summit Lake Waterfowl: Monday, March 7, 2022 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 828 4783 8486

Learn about some of the birds you may see from the Towpath and Loop trails near Summit Lake.

Landscaping with Native Plants: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 843 0602 4028

Join a naturalist to learn how to regenerate biodiversity, fight climate collapse and provide wildlife habitat in your yard.

March Migration Madness: Sunday, March 13, 2022 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 836 5503 5025

The Migration game has begun and the focus will be on large, colorful and gregarious waterfowl! Learn which birds are here and which are still to come.

Bird Walks



Winter Bird Walkabout: Monday, March 7, 2022 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Cascade Valley Metro Park, Valley View Area: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313

Join a naturalist along Celebration Trail to see what birds are using the park district's newest area.



Owl Prowl: Saturday, March 12, 2022 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Park Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd, Twinsburg, OH 44087

Journey into the nocturnal forest to discover what makes these raptors the perfect predators.



Waterfowl Watch: Saturday, March 19, 2022 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Nimisila Reservoir, Lot C1: 5034 Christman Rd., Green, OH 44319

Join the search for migrating waterfowl.

Advance Notice:

March Migration Madness Field Trip to Funk Bottoms and Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Areas in Wayne County (Adults Only): Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Advance Registration Required: [330TIX | Summit Metro Parks Events](#)

Join Summit Metro Park naturalists for five hours of exploring the wetlands and fields of Wayne County, searching for ducks, geese, swans, raptors and early migrating shorebirds. A chauffeured mini-bus will allow a small group (12 participants) of beginner to advanced birders the opportunity to explore this popular area without having to drive. Bring binoculars, field guides, spotting scopes (optional), cameras, snacks, beverages and your own packed lunch. Dress to be comfortable in any weather for the duration of the trip.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Cozy Hideouts: Join Volunteer Naturalist Dwight Chasar in the search for lingering migrating birds. Bring binoculars to spot red-breasted nuthatches, kinglets and other species. Register for the program here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bird-walk-cozy-hideouts-tickets-234272925627>

Other News You Can Use

Scholarship Opportunity

The Summit County Master Gardeners are providing scholarships to Summit County residents who are committed to attending an Ohio university and are planning to pursue a two- or four-year degree in horticulture, agriculture or a closely-related field. Applicants must be residents of Summit County with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Deadline to apply is April 15, 2022. To learn more, see <https://www.akroncf.org/students/> and scroll to Summit County Master Gardeners Scholarship Fund. Application portal through Akron Community Foundation: [Logon Page - Scholarship Lifecycle Manager \(grantinterface.com\)](#)

Study Finds Lead Poisoning in Bald and Golden Eagles is Widespread



This Bald Eagle was admitted to The Raptor Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, where it was determined by veterinarians to be poisoned by lead. The bowed head, drooped wings, and green stained tail feathers are all typical signs of lead poisoning of raptors. Photo courtesy of The Raptor Center, Saint Paul, MN

After recovering from DDT poisoning enough that the species was removed from the Endangered and Threatened list in 2021, the subject of lead ingestion is of concern. Researchers at the Department of Public and Ecosystem Health at Cornell University have found a reduction in the population of breeding females and males due to lead poisoning due to ingestion of organs left behind in the wild by hunters who “field dress” their kill. The abandoned contaminated remains are scavenged by eagles. [U.S. bald eagles comeback diminished by lead poisoning from bullets \(msn.com\)](#)

It's That Time of Year Again

Time to Order Native Plants from Summit County Soil and Water Conservation District! Limited species of trees, shrubs and flowering perennials are being sold in bundles of 3 at \$15.00 per bundle of chosen species with a \$12.95 shipping charge for each order. The trees and shrubs are bare-root seedlings that should be planted promptly upon delivery to your address in mid-April. Orders must be placed online and paid for (in cash or check via USPS) by March 27th, 2022. [2022 Tree, Shrub, Plant Sale \(formsite.com\)](https://formsite.com)

Note: Other native plant sales will be featured in upcoming issues and many of these will allow for on-site pre-purchase browsing and inspection of the actual plants you are buying.

Birders Voice Concerns about SpaceX Expansion in Boca Chica, Texas



From American Bird Conservancy: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has pushed back the final review of SpaceX's Starship rocket project in Boca Chica, Texas, due to a *deluge of comments from bird conservation activists*. Ongoing construction, fires, and rocket debris have impacted important bird and wildlife habitats, harming vulnerable bird species, including the federally threatened Red Knot and Piping Plover. How serious is the threat to birds? According to an analysis by Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program in Corpus Christi, the Piping Plover population in the Boca Chica region has decreased by 54 percent over the past 3 years since SpaceX started testing and launching rockets. Despite the dangers to birds, the FAA has provided minimal oversight of SpaceX even as it expands operations. The FAA is going through more than 19,000 responses as it develops the final Programmatic Environmental

Assessment (PEA) for the Starship project. The document's new release date is March 28th. ABC supports space exploration, but it should not come at a high cost to birds and wildlife here on Earth. Too much sensitive public land has already been affected by SpaceX's Boca Chica facility — and much more is at risk if we don't raise our voices now. Join thousands of ABC activists who have already spoken up to keep birds and other wildlife in Boca Chica safe from the negative impacts of SpaceX's operations. Sign their new petition urging the FAA and SpaceX to conduct a full-scale, in-depth analysis of SpaceX's environmental impacts. [Ask the FAA and SpaceX to take steps to protect birds! \(abcbirds.org\)](https://abcbirds.org) See an earlier article about how the project is impacting residents in the area – another example of why we need environmental justice: [Disgruntled neighbors and dwindling shorebirds jeopardize SpaceX expansion \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com)



Mayor Horrigan - Save Theiss Woods!

Preserve the Valley calls on all City of Akron residents to keep their voices heard. In public engagements during the master planning process, it was stated by City of Akron officials that the final decision on the Theiss Road property sits with Mayor Horrigan. Let him know that you support the conservation, not development, of the property. Call (330-375-2090) or email Mayor Horrigan [using this link](#) to voice your opinion. Together we can make a difference and SAVE THEISS WOODS!

Background Information about our MoSI Station Partner at Ometepe, Nicaragua



The Ometepe location was chosen by the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters as their primary partner with the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP). It is a volcanic island in the middle of Lake Nicaragua, the largest lake in Central America. The name Ometepe derives from Nahuatl, an indigenous language spoken by the Aztecs, with *ome* meaning two and *tepetl* meaning mountain. The island was formed by two towering volcanoes that dominate the landscape. Volcan Maderas, the smaller of the two at 4500-plus feet, is now dormant, but the larger, Concepcion Volcano (5250+ feet), has erupted regularly since 1880. Ometepe is about 20 miles long and up to six miles wide, and has been inhabited since 2000 BC. As of 2010, the island of Ometepe has been declared a protected *UNESCO Biosphere Reserve*. It's highly regarded for its wetlands and tropical rainforests, which are rich in Spanish cedar and other evergreens.

A research station on the island had previously operated between 2008 and 2014. The funds donated by COAC in 2021 were used to buy new supplies to get the station up and functioning again: nets, banding pliers, and other supplies and equipment arrived in late December. Earlier, in 2014, an organized community group of young people, was formed to work for the conservation of Ometepe's natural resources. Their work was supported by Fauna and Flora International, and One Earth Conservation and they began monitoring the Yellow-naped Parrot and working with 75 agroecological farms, promoting environmental awareness and education.

By 2018, their range of conservation work expanded and the rural cooperative Biometepe R.L. was founded by ten young professionals with experience in the conservation of natural resources and conservation tourism. The scope of Biometepe includes establishing its operations throughout the country with the objective of contributing to the responsible economic development of the Island of Ometepe, through the design, promotion and marketing of products and services, especially in the areas of conservation eco-tourism, agroecological production, and the conservation of threatened species with an emphasis on the protection of the Yellow-naped Parrot.

Biometepe currently has a research permit issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MARENA) for the conservation of species, specifically the Yellow-naped Parrot and Bell Bird and for carrying out MoSI monitoring. They work in alliance with several organizations and in close collaboration with communities to increase participation, knowledge and grassroots support for conservation, animal welfare and sustainable management of natural resources and the values of the Biosphere Reserve. They've provided training for local residents as community forest rangers, and guidance for promoting environmentally-friendly agricultural practices throughout the island of Ometepe. The MoSI stations are located in two protected areas of Ometepe Island: Peña Inculta Wildlife Refuge and Magdalena Farm in the community of Balgue, located in the Maderas Volcano National Park.



With an understanding of where Ometepe is and some background information about the Biometepe R.L.Cooperative, future ongoing posts will detail the work that Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) is doing with MoSI there. Stay tuned. We hope to establish a connection with the people of Ometepe and welcome questions or comments about the partnership.

Help Wanted!

From time to time, our chapter receives requests to speak to other groups in our area about who we are and what we do or about other bird-related topics. If you'd like to act as an ambassador for our chapter and would like to use your public-speaking talents from time to time and have the time to do so, please answer this call by replying to info@akronaudubon.org. In case you are interested, we do have some PowerPoint presentations prepared for these purposes that could be used as a base from which to personalize your message.

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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