



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS April Program (Live)

Jay Mager: *An Evening of Loonacy:*

The Life History & Current Status of Common Loons in North America

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

*****Note Location*****

Goodyear Heights Lodge - West Room

Goodyear Heights Metro Park

2077 Newton St., Akron OH 44305



The Common Loon has long been considered an iconic species of the northern wilderness. However, as an indicator species of the ecological health and integrity of aquatic ecosystems, it also can reflect some of the most pressing environmental challenges. In this presentation, Jay hopes to review the basic life history of the Common Loon, identify some of the more recent concerns facing loons, and present some of the most recent developments in research and conservation by scientists and citizens to preserve and protect current populations.



Who's Who of Ohio's Owls

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Join a naturalist at Summit Metro Parks to explore the lives of Ohio's owls. Learn how to identify common owls by sight and sound and learn about their habitats and how they use their unique abilities.



Environment for the Americas

April (Virtual) Bird Book Club

Thursday, April 27, 2023 8:00 pm



“Birds are my almanac. They tune me into the seasons, and into myself.”

So begins this lively collection of essays by acclaimed filmmaker and novelist Priyanka Kumar. Growing up at the feet of the Himalayas in northern India, Kumar took for granted her immersion in a lush natural world. After moving to North America as a teenager, she found herself increasingly distanced from more than human life, and discouraged by the civilization she saw contributing to its destruction. It was only in her twenties, living in Los Angeles and working on films, that she began to rediscover her place in the landscape — and in the cosmos — by way of watching birds. Kumar will be joining a representative from Environment for the Americas to discuss her collections of essays written across the American West. Register in advance for this online session: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)



Warbler Warm-up

Monday, May 1, 2023 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Liberty Park Nature Center

9999 Liberty Park Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087



Join a naturalist from Summit Metro Parks to get ready for warbler season and the Biggest Week in American birding. Learn the basics of warbler identification and other tidbits about our feathered friends. Several taxidermy specimens of migrating warblers will be on hand to view. The program is designed for all levels of birding experience.

Backyard Bird Basics

Saturday, May 6, 2023 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Seneca Deck

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Learn how to properly care for bird feeders and bird baths to keep our feathered friends happy, healthy and visiting your backyard frequently.

Bird Walks & Field Trips

Register in Advance Now! Limited Availability

Wandering for Warblers Day Trip to Magee Marsh

Monday, May 8, 2023 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Bus Departs from F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Join Summit Metro Park naturalists for an all-day exploration of the Warbler Capital of the World during the Biggest Week in American Birding! The tour bus will depart F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm for the famed Magee Marsh and other birding hotspots. Be prepared for extensive walking on boardwalks and trails. Dress for variable weather conditions. Pack a lunch, beverages, snacks, binoculars and a camera. Participants must

be 18 years or older. Cost: \$75 per person. Register online at [330TIX | Wandering for Warblers Day Trip](#)

~~~~~

**90th Annual Audubon Spring Bird Walks 2023**  
**Ongoing Through May 21, 2023 7:30 a.m.**  
**Multiple locations throughout Lorain, Medina,**  
**Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga Counties**



The Series of Spring Bird Walks is one of the oldest community science partnerships in Northeast Ohio. New and experienced birders can join any location on each of **six *Sundays in April and May*** to watch migrating birds enroute to their northern breeding grounds. The walks, led by experienced birders, begin on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and are a great way to learn more about our resident and migrating songbirds and improve identification skills. The walks are cosponsored by Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Blackbrook Audubon Society, Black River Audubon Society, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Gates Mills Birders, Geauga Park District, Hiram College, Holden Arboretum, Lake Metroparks, Lorain County Metro Parks, Medina County Park District, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. Find all the locations here: [2023-SPRING-BIRD-WALK-SERIES-ANNOUNCEMENT-2.pdf](#)

**Please note that Medina County Park District** holds their affiliated walks on **Saturdays**, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at **River Styx Park, 8200 River Styx Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281** (Guilford Township) The Saturday walks will continue through **May 20th**. Meet in the main parking lot at River Styx Park. All ages are welcome. No registration is required.

~~~~~

GAAS Bird Walks



Beginning Saturday, April 29, 2023 7:30 a.m.
Firestone Metro Park, Tuscarawas Meadows Area
2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319
or
200 E. Warner Rd., Akron, OH 44319

Ned DeLamatre will lead walks this spring at Firestone Metro Park on Saturday mornings, beginning on Saturday, April 29th and continue through every Saturday in May. Meet at the bridge over the canal race at 7:30 a.m. Walks can last three to four hours, depending on conditions and participants can arrive and depart at any time. Come join us along the race; we're easy to find and we walk slow.



Biggest Week Bird Walk
Sunday, May 7, 2023 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Cascade Valley Metro Park, Valley View Area
1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313



Happy Biggest Week in American Birding! Take a hike with a Summit Metro Park naturalist to spot neotropical migrants on their journeys north. Along the way, discover how bird lovers can better support our avian friends at home. Please bring binoculars and a bird guide.



News You Can Use

It's Time to Put Hummingbird Feeders Out!

The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are fast approaching northeast Ohio and a few have already been reported in Wisconsin and Ohio. The ***Journey North*** website tracks first arrivals of several fauna and flora species; a time lapse map showing first arrivals of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds can be viewed here: [Journey North Maps](#). It's time to get our feeders up to provide these arriving migrants a much-needed energy boost to replenish the reserves spent on their journey northward. Phenology supports the relationship that our hummingbirds arrive in time to take advantage of the nectar provided by the flowering Ohio buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, one of the first trees to leaf out and flower in the spring. The tubular flowers are a favorite shape for the hummingbirds. Julie Zickafoose offered some pointers on hummingbird nectar in a past blog post and warns of the potential danger of using any red dye in our feeders; find her story and post here: [Julie Zickefoose on Blogspot: Red Alert for Hummingbirds](#). A standard homemade solution of four parts water to one part plain sugar is inexpensive and easy to mix at home. Records of first arrivals at residential feeders in our area indicate that they'll show up almost to the day and time each year – but could they show up a week early because of our warmer than usual spring?

~~~~~

## New Research from OSU's Ohio Sea Grant & Stone Lab:

### Lake Erie Island Sanctuaries Guide Migrating Songbirds

Nocturnal migratory songbirds might rely on archipelagos like North, Middle and South Bass Islands as a navigation aid or resting place, according to Bowling Green State University Professor Verner Bingman and biology graduate student Murphy Harrington, who conducted their research with support from Ohio Sea Grant. Bingman and Harrington used infrared cameras last fall on Middle Bass Island to detect the directions of individual migratory birds. They then compared them to flight paths of individual birds over Bowling Green and Cleveland, where they were oriented in a different direction. They found that the birds are using the islands to actively adjust their flight paths and are consistently following a south/southwest trajectory over the islands. Bingman plans to repeat the study for three more migratory seasons so that he has two full years of data. The research has wide implications – from managing habitat for conservation to managing tourism strategies along Lake Erie's lakefront to informing policymakers and developers on wind turbine placement in Lake Erie. Said, Harrington, "From our research: You don't want them [turbines] anywhere near the islands." See the article by Joan Slattery Wall published by Stone Lab on March 31, 2023: [Lake Erie Island Sanctuaries Aid Migrating Songbirds | Ohio Sea Grant \(osu.edu\)](#)

---

## More News of Birds Using Topography During Migration

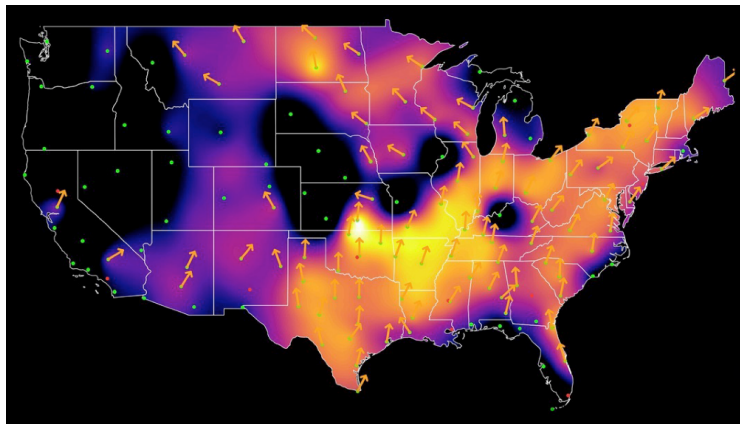
### Why a dirt parking lot in California became a magnet for migrating birds

At Bear Divide, in the San Gabriel Mountains and in the Pacific Flyway, scientists have discovered that the migratory birds are flying low to the ground in the early daylight hours instead of over or around the mountains at night. Researchers are studying the phenomenon in the Angeles National Forest about 30 miles north of Los Angeles. As many as 13,000 migratory birds, including warblers, tanagers, orioles, buntings, and grosbeaks, are using this migratory passage that was discovered in 2016. Read how researchers from Loyola Marymount University, Cal State Stanislaus, and Cal State Los Angeles are solving another piece of the mysteries of migration. Source: **Los Angeles Times**, April 17, 2023; Louis Sahagún and Irfan Khan.

<https://apple.news/AsQd5mZ00TbyKhitf3U4iwQ>

---

### BirdCast Now Active through June 15, 2023



Example of Real time nocturnal bird Migration by Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The BirdCast Migration tools made available through Cornell Lab of Ornithology and other partners and collaborators are now active. Explore the *Migration Dashboard*, *forecast maps*, *live bird migration maps* and get *local bird migration reports*: [Migration tools - BirdCast](#)

---

**ODNR Leadership Receives National Award for Wetland Conservation Work**



The Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) work as part of the H2Ohio Initiative has earned national attention by receiving the 2023 Wetland Conservation Achievement Award, presented by Ducks Unlimited. The initiative, created by Governor DeWine in 2019, focuses on encouraging agricultural best management practices, restoring and enhancing wetlands, upgrading outdated water infrastructure, and replacing lead pipes. There are currently four H2Ohio projects in Summit County. Read more about the ODNR commendation for Ohio's commitment to water quality and see where the current wetland projects are located: [ODNR Leadership Receives National Award for Wetland Conservation Work | Ohio Department of Natural Resources \(ohiodnr.gov\)](#)

-----

### The GAAS Summer Census Needs Your Help!



Savannah Sparrow at PPG's Lime Lake #6 by Doug Vogus

“The 2023 Summer Breeding Bird Census of Summit County will take place from June 9<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>. We have a number of areas within Summit County that are in need of volunteers to survey. The more volunteers we have, the more complete the census. If you are interested in participating, please feel free to contact Paul Moser via email at [pmoser16590@yahoo.com](mailto:pmoser16590@yahoo.com) or by phone at [330-328-5149](tel:330-328-5149). Thank you and Happy Birding!  
Thanks, Paul Moser.”

And mention of the Summer Census would not be complete without a mention of a changing of the guard: this year, Paul Moser will be running the census as Doug and Michelle Vogus step down. Doug and Michelle ran the census from 2014 through 2022. Thank you, Doug and Michelle, for your years of dedicated field work and compilation of the data. And much thanks to Paul Moser for continuing this effort that is now in its 44<sup>th</sup> year. For more information about the Summer Census and archived results, see: [Summer Census - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#)

---

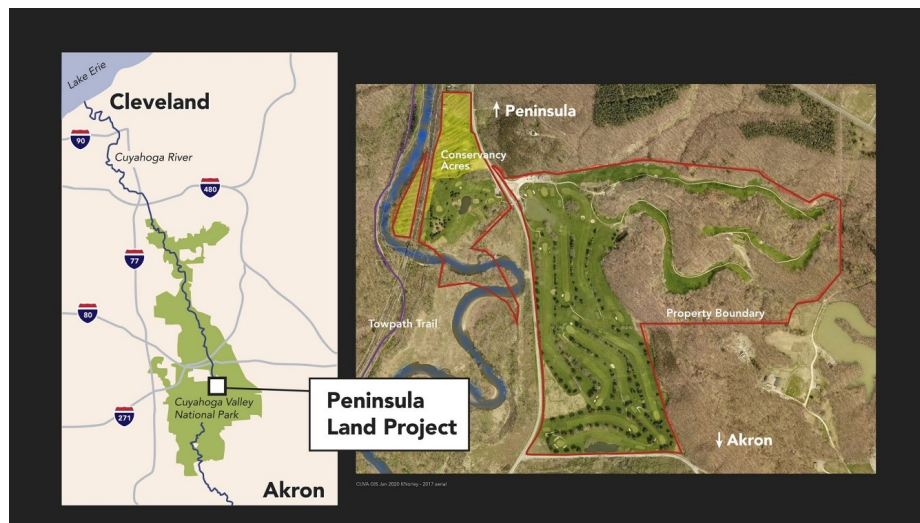
## News on Hotspots from *The Birding Community E-Bulletin* April 2023

A new stand-alone birding hotspot directory, (<https://birdinghotspots.org/>) "**Birding Hotspots**" is an open-source website that collects information about birding opportunities and locations from the local birders who know the sites best. The directory is a guide that covers national wildlife refuges, parks, golf courses, lakes, roadside stops, dumps, cemeteries, forests and other places people bird and includes photos. Ohio is well represented because the directory was created and is managed by Ken Ostermiller, a hotspot reviewer for eBird, and Adam Jackson, a software developer, along with numerous other eBird editors and contributors. The website may look familiar because Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) first pioneered the concept. Find information such as restroom availability, wheelchair access, entrance fees and location description as well as nearby hotspots and links to directions and an interactive map. Currently, the site covers 18 states and one Canadian province. This could be a great resource when travelling. Or you may want to contribute to the effort to help build coverage where you live or bird.

Source: April 2023, not yet archived, at <https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin>).

---

## Update on Former Brandywine Golf Course



Map by Anna Yantek / Ideastream Public Media, with satellite imagery via the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

In case you missed the webinar with the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park about the future of the former Brandywine Golf Course, Abigail Bottar wrote an excellent piece for *The Frequency* at Ideastream Public Media. It was a featured story of the week on April 6, 2023. Have a listen or read about the plans that Stacey Rusher, director of projects for the Conservancy, has for the property: [Back to nature \(ideastream.org\)](https://www.ideastream.org/back-to-nature).

~~~~~

An Invite from Black River Audubon Society



Rob Swindell, President of Black River Audubon Society in Lorain County, Ohio, has asked us to share news of their upcoming birding trip to Costa Rica, October 21 – 28, 2023 with Sabrewing Nature Tours. The trip is a fundraiser for their chapter and they welcome anyone from Northeast Ohio to join them. The trip needs a minimum of eight birders to go and has a limit of 12. For an itinerary and more information, see [Costa Rica: A Fundraiser with Black River Audubon Society - Sabrewing Nature Tours \(sabrewingtours.com\)](https://www.sabrewingtours.com).

~~~~~

### Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) Conservation Committee and Greater Mohican Audubon Society

#### Need our Voices to Help Grassland Birds at Byers Woods Park

The following timely item comes from the April 2023 issue of *Chip Notes*, the monthly enews of the OOS. Grassland birds are in decline and Byers Woods has served as a dependable nesting habitat for several species such as Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Henslow's Sparrows and others for many years. Please consider lending a respectful and compelling voice to oppose a proposed solar installation at Byers Woods.

Byers Woods is at 675 County Road 175, Ashland, OH 44805. Greater Mohican Audubon Society and Ashland County Park District host an annual *Bobolinks & Butterflies Festival* that will be held there on June 24, 2023. More information will be provided about the festival and this conservation issue in the next (May 7<sup>th</sup>) issue of this enews.

---

## CONSERVATION CORNER

**The Conservation Committee would like to alert OOS members to a conservation issue at Byers Woods in Ashland County, and offer some suggestions for ways our members can help.**

At the April 6, 2023, meeting of the Ashland County Commission, officers heard a proposal from a solar company to install a solar array on the grasslands at Byers Woods Park, a location that has been serving as an important nesting habitat for Bobolinks, Henslow's Sparrows, and other grassland birds for many years. The grasslands are built above the old Ashland County Landfill, which is identified as a brownfield and requires regular monitoring, a not insubstantial cost for the county. There are some federal tax incentives for installing solar arrays on brownfields, a policy that makes good sense for many brownfield locations. But the fields at Byers Woods Parks have been carefully maintained by the Ashland County Parks District for many years. They delay cutting the grass until August so that grassland birds can successfully nest and fledge their young annually. Building a solar array here would swap one positive good—expanding renewable energy resources by sacrificing another—preserving one of the few central Ohio habitats still friendly for threatened grassland species. In the view of the OOS Conservation Committee, this would be a very unwise choice to make. Ashland County birder Christina Stump delivered an impressive, science-based presentation to the County Commissioners at their April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, outlining the likely negative impacts a solar array would have on the Bobolinks who nest there, as well as the Purple Martins and Northern Harriers who feed there every year.

The Ashland County Commissioners have not yet decided as to whether to pursue the solar array project. Acting now may help shape their decision.

What can OOS members do to help? Here are several things:

1. Watch Christina Stump's presentation to the Ashland County Commissioners at the link below. Her presentation begins at the 16:20 mark, and runs about 20 minutes. I learned a great deal about our current understanding of the ways in which a solar array can impact grassland birds, and I think you will find it worth your time:

[Ashland, OH County Government | Facebook](#)

1. Share your concerns with the Ashland County Commissioners about the negative impacts a solar array at this location would have on these threatened birds. Please keep your comments civil. Let them know if you are an Ashland County resident, or if you are a birder who has traveled to the county to enjoy the excellent birding opportunities at Byers Woods Park. You can find the names and email addresses of the three commissioners here:

[Commissioners | Ashland County, Ohio \(ashlandcountyoh.us\)](http://www.ashlandcountyoh.us)

Visit Byers Woods Park and go birding there! The Mohican Valley Audubon Society hosts a birder's walk there on the fourth Saturday of every month at 9 AM. Or just visit at a time that is convenient for you. Record your visit on the Byers Woods eBird Hotspot, and then share your positive experience there with the Ashland County Commissioners. Let them know that the Grasslands at Byers Woods are good for birds, but also for the many people who enjoy the park and would like to keep it a nice place for birding, walking, or just enjoying the scenic views. And remember to keep your comments professional and kind.

Bill Kerrigan  
Chair, OOS Conservation Committee

~~~~~

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://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](http://www.greasociety.org) 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

Follow us on Instagram: @akronaudubon

Find us on Facebook: @greaterakronaudubon

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

info@akronaudubon.org



You received this email because you signed up on
our website or made purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

