



Upcoming Programs and Events



Build Your Bird Friendly Yard

Speaker: Becca Zak

Date: April 15, 2026 at 7pm

Location:

Goodyear Heights Lodge - East Room

Goodyear Heights Metro Park

2077 Newton Street

Akron OH 44305

Topic:

Residential space dominates urban and suburban areas and has become essential in solving local biodiversity crises throughout the human landscape. With a specific focus on our avian neighbors, join us to learn how to build a bird-friendly space, right in your own yard. We'll highlight simple, accessible and effective ways to transform your passion for birds into conservation action that best supports backyard bird species and other wildlife neighbors.

Biography:

Becca Zak is the President of the Greater Akron Audubon Society, an Interpretive Naturalist for Summit Metro Parks, a New England homestead hopeful, and an advocate for incorporating native plants into home and city landscapes. This advocacy work is slowly transitioning into a small business, so be on the lookout for that! She and her partner Stewart live comfortably and intentionally with their two cats, one dog and 8 chickens on a quarter acre jam-packed with food gardens, wildflower prairie, a rain garden and shade bed habitats. Follow her property's progress on iNaturalist:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/the-homestead>



The Portage Trail Group

Serving... Ashland, Carroll, Harrison, Holmes, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties Ohio



**Friends of our PORTAGE TRAIL GROUP of the SIERRA CLUB
are invited when Tuesday Musical's Akron Concert Series
brings superstar soprano:**

**Renée Fleming to Akron for Voice of Nature: The
Anthropocene on Tuesday, April 21, 7:30pm at EJ Thomas Hall**

Accompanied by a breathtaking film created for her by National Geographic and with an eclectic mix of nature-inspired songs — such as arias by Handel and Puccini, music from Lord of the Rings , contemporary hits by Björk and Nico Muhly, and selections by film composer Ennio Morricone — Ms. Fleming will celebrate the beauty of nature while also raising awareness about the urgent need to protect it.

Info and ticket link:

<https://www.tuesdaymusical.org/concert/soprano-renee-fleming-voice-nature-anthropocene>

Film trailer:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hr9nuaxjgqcg2n9zs2uv9/Ren-e-Fleming-Voice-of-Nature-the-Anthropocene-Trailer.mp4?rlkey=ryaa6aoerpurgo30yc51a3f6b&e=3&dl=0>

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

**The SIXTH annual Cuyahoga Valley Cleanup**

**Saturday, April 18, 8:30am - 11**

**Gather at Blimp City,**

**1675 Merriman Rd, Akron, OH 44313-5224.**

Contact [info@preservethevalley.com](mailto:info@preservethevalley.com) with questions.

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**Spring Bird Banding**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, April 16 - May 30**

Meet Julie West at the table near the right side of the driveway to observe migratory birds as they are banded. Generally, the timing is around 30 minutes after sunrise and goes until 12pm. Weather permitting. No registration required. Free. (ASL-American Sign Language)

<https://shakerlakes.org/birding-programs/>

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## **Audubon Society Of Greater Cleveland Spring Bird Walks**

**Select Sundays: April 12, April 19, April 26 (ASL) & May 3, May 10, May 17**

**7:30am – 10:30**

**Nature Center at Shaker Lakes**

**2600 South Park Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio**

Each spring for many years, select Sundays in April and May at 7:30 A.M., the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland in conjunction with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Metroparks, Lake Metroparks, Geauga Park District, The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, and Holden Arboretum conduct bird walks to experience the progression of spring migration through our area.

<https://shakerlakes.org/calendar/list/>



## **Greater Akron Audubon Society Bird Walk**

**Saturday: April 18th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Summit Lake Nature Center**

**411 Ira Ave, Akron, OH 44301**

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society and other bird nerds for our monthly bird walk.

This month, we'll search Summit Lake for waterfowl and songbirds alike! We will walk along the Loop Trail, totaling 2.5 miles on flat, easy terrain. Meet at Summit Lake Nature Center.



**Kinderealm: Marvelous Migration**

**APRIL 8 @ 10:30am – 11:30**

**FA Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center**

**1828 Smith Rd.**

**Akron, OH 44313 United States**

We invite children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions to join us to learn about the marvels of bird migration. We'll embark on a journey of our own through activities, a story and a short hike. Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.

Registration is required - currently sold out; to be notified if tickets become available, complete the form at [Tickets](#)

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**Beyond the Summit:  
Urban Impacts on Streams  
April 8, 6pm - 8  
Summit Lake Nature Center  
411 Ira Ave. Akron**

Beyond the Summit is a speaker series featuring environmental professionals discussing topics related to water in Northeast Ohio. From watershed health to fishing best practices, each talk offers community members the chance to learn from experts shaping the future of our water resources. This month's guest joins us from Summit Soil and Water Conservation District to talk about the urban impacts on local streams.



**Self-Guided: Awaiting Warblers  
April 9 – April 23  
Wood Hollow Metro Park  
Downy Loop Trail**

**2121 Barlow Rd.  
Hudson, OH 44236**

Hike a portion of the 1.2-mile Downy Loop Trail to discover the world of warblers as we await these marvelous migrants. This experience is available through April 23.



**Waterfowl Walk**

**April 11 @ 9:00am - 11:00**

**Summit Lake Nature Center**

**411 Ira Ave. Akron**

Join a naturalist for a walk at Summit Lake to search for and learn about waterfowl and the other birds living nearby. Binoculars will be available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis.



**Bird Nerds: Baltimore Oriole**  
**April 11 @ 10:00am – 12:00pm**  
**FA Seiberling Nature Realm**  
**1828 Smith Rd.**  
**Akron, OH 44313**

Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are welcome to join us for a deep dive into one of Ohio's most recognizable species each month. You see them. You love them. But how well do you really know them? After our indoor presentation, those interested can then join for a guided birding walk at the Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park.



**Turkey Vultures: Nature's Clean-up Crew**  
**April 11 @ 1:00pm – 2:30**  
**Liberty Metro Park Nature Center**  
**9999 Liberty Rd.**  
**Twinsburg, OH 44087**

Following a presentation on turkey vultures' unusual habits, extraordinary adaptations and important role in our ecosystem, we'll hit the trail in hopes of watching them in action as they rock and glide on thermals overhead.

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## **Build Your Bird-Friendly Yard**

**April 15 @ 7:00pm**

**Goodyear Heights Metro Park Lodge - East Room**

**2077 Newton St.  
Akron, OH 44305**

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society and Becca Zak, environmental educator and native plant enthusiast, to learn how to build a bird-friendly space, right in your own yard. We'll highlight simple, accessible and effective ways to transform your passion for birds into conservation action that best supports backyard bird species and other wildlife neighbors. Meet in the East Room.



## **Good Garden Talks: Creating Soft Landings**

**April 16 @ 6:00pm – 7:30**

**Goodyear Heights Metro Park Lodge**

**2077 Newton St.  
Akron, OH 44305**

Discover how native plantings under native trees provide critical shelter and habitat for one or more life cycle stages of moths, butterflies and beneficial insects whose numbers are in decline

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**Spring Wildflowers at Sunset**

**April 22 @ 7:00pm – 8:30**

**O'Neil Woods Metro Park - Deer Run Trail**

**2550 Martin Rd, Bath, OH 44333**

Join a naturalist along the challenging 2-mile Deer Run Trail as we explore the forest in search of spring ephemerals at sunset. We'll learn some identification tips and the cultural history of these small but mighty plants.

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**Spring Wildflowers and Their Bees**

**April 25 @ 1:00pm – 3:00**

**Liberty Metro Park - Nature Center**

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

Join a naturalist as we walk the ledges in search of spring wildflowers and their friends, the specialist bees. Learn about the interdependence between wildflowers and bees and why you only see “queen” bumblebees this time of the year.



**Birds and Blooms**

**April 26 @ 9:30am– 11:00**

**Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park - Quarry Trail**

**5779 Riverview Rd.  
Peninsula, OH 44264**

New and experienced birdwatchers are invited to stroll the 1.4-mile Quarry Trail in search of songbirds and wildflowers painting the forest with a long-awaited splash of color.

Binoculars are recommended; some will be available to borrow.



### **Weekly Spring Bird Walks**

#### **Vermilion**

**Join Black River Audubon for the Spring Bird Walk series**

**Vermilion River Reservation: Bacon Woods**

**51211 N Ridge Rd, Vermilion, OH 44089**

**Time: 8:30am**

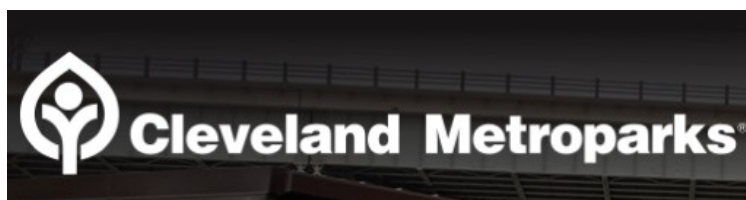
**Dates: April 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 10, 17**

Drive to the back of the park to meet at the trailhead at the far northern lot. The walk includes the beginning sections of the parking lot and the red and blue trails. Terrain is crushed gravel, short boardwalks, and sometimes mud on the grass trail. Approx 2 miles.

Contact: 440-787-7736 with questions or view [Bird Walks](#).

Registration not required.

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**Birds in the Hills**  
**With Appalachian Understories**  
**May 1 at 5pm to May 3 at 1:30pm**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/birds-in-the-hills-sponsored-by-the-ohio-ornithological-society-tickets-1978157739048?aff=oddtcreator>

Nestled in the foothills of Appalachia, Hocking Hills, this event provides opportunity for bird enthusiasts of all levels to celebrate and learn together.



**49<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Breeding Bird Census**

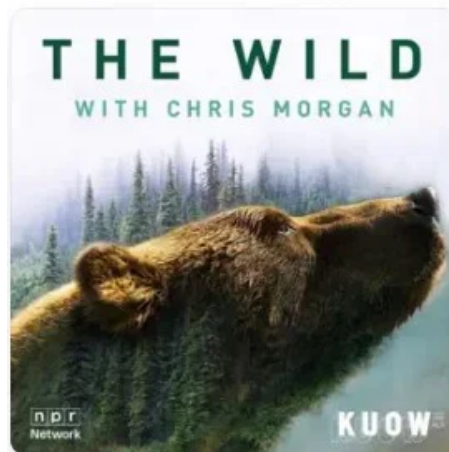
**June 5 – 14, 2026**

**Call for Area Leaders & Volunteers**

As of today, there is one territory that needs coverage this year. Volunteers are also needed in Areas 22 & 28. A map of the territories can be found here: [Summer Census Territories - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). Area 22 is in the southwest corner of Summit County and has Silver Creek Metro Park in it. Area 28 is in the southwest corner of Summit County (in blue overlay). If you are interested in participating in any area on the map please let me know. We love volunteers and always could use more help! This year, the checklist has been revised and participants are encouraged to use a new Google form to submit results for easier compiling; these will be coming out soon. Please reach out to compiler Paul Moser ([pmoser16590@yahoo.com](mailto:pmoser16590@yahoo.com)) if you can help during this 10-day period or if you know someone who may be able to help.

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## News You Can Use



### Bird watching and listening with Libby Mills

When I was eight, growing up in England, I was already really into birds. I was in the Young Ornithologists Club for goodness sake! I didn't have one friend who was into birds. But these days, things are different. Here in the USA, almost 100 million people birdwatch. And that number is growing.

There's a lot going on between the birds, as they flit around chirping and singing. To us, it might just sound like beautiful little tunes. But to birds, and even other species in the forest, there's a whole hidden world of conversation out there— love songs, alarm calls, turf wars, parenting struggles — entire dramas unfolding above our heads.

So what are they saying? And why are they saying it? Naturalist Libby Mills has spent almost her entire life learning how to make sense of what the birds are saying.

Today, I take a walk with Libby in her backyard where she helps us slow down, listen deeply, and try to better understand what's going on in a bird's world.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/bird-watching-and-listening-with-libby-mills/id1455418690?i=1000752844288>



**Middlebury park a possibility as Habitat for Humanity seeks ideas for vacant lot**

Habitat for Humanity – Vacant lot development at North Case Avenue and East Market Street

Presenter: Jessica Goldbourn, Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Summit County and others are gathering community input on what should be developed on a vacant lot in Ward 10.

[https://signalakron.org/middlebury-park-a-possibility-as-habitat-for-humanity-seeks-ideas-for-vacant-lot-akron/?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=A%20%242%206M%20boost%20for%20the%20Little%20Cuyahoga%20River&utm\\_campaign=Signals%20330%2020260302](https://signalakron.org/middlebury-park-a-possibility-as-habitat-for-humanity-seeks-ideas-for-vacant-lot-akron/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=A%20%242%206M%20boost%20for%20the%20Little%20Cuyahoga%20River&utm_campaign=Signals%20330%2020260302)



## **Akron's Little Cuyahoga River to see dam removals, riverbank restoration**

A one-mile stretch of the Little Cuyahoga River in Akron's Middlebury neighborhood will soon be improved. Officials plan to remove two low-head dams (dams designed to allow water to flow over the top) and restore two damaged riverbank environment areas.

[Middlebury Park a Possibility](#)

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Country's biggest solar project moving ahead in California

An enormous solar project is moving forward in California, on land that farmers have had to keep fallow as the state restricts over-pumping the aquifers they previously used to irrigate crops.

<https://www.npr.org/2026/02/24/nx-s1-5667624/countrys-biggest-solar-project-moving-ahead-in-california>

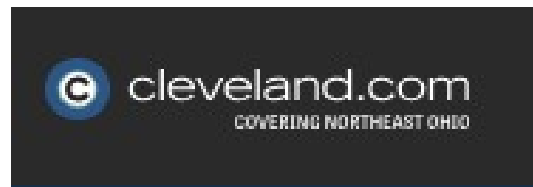
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## **Lawsuit accuses Trump administration of erasing history and science at national parks**

National Park advocates and educators have sued to stop the Trump administration from taking down park displays about slavery, Native American removal, and other ugly chapters in U.S. history.

<https://www.npr.org/2026/02/18/nx-s1-5716773/lawsuit-accuses-trump-administration-of-erasing-history-and-science-at-national-parks>



### **Fairlawn's Rosemont Preserve project receives \$1.2M federal funding boost**

FAIRLAWN, Ohio – Construction is underway to turn a 66-acre portion of the former Rosemont Country Club into a passive-use nature preserve with trails, boardwalks, overlooks and art installations.

But the Rosemont Preserve project is about more than adding another green space for community members to recreate and come together. The project seeks to tackle stormwater issues that have plagued the Montrose area since development took off there in the 1980s and 1990s, according to Ernie Staten, Fairlawn's service director.

<https://www.cleveland.com/akron/2026/03/fairlawns-rosemont-preserve-project-receives-12m-federal-funding-boost.html>

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## **The 'Great Texas Freeze' killed thousands of beloved songbirds. Scientists are worried about what might happen next**

North America's largest swallow, the purple martin, was hit hard by winter storms in 2021. With erratic weather events becoming more common, experts are concerned about the bird's long-term survival. March 6, 2026 The 'Great Texas Freeze' of 2021 wiped out up to a quarter of the state's much-loved purple martin population, a study in Nature Ecology and Evolution has found. Now, conservationists worry it could take decades for the birds to recover, and fear for the repercussions of future extreme.

<https://apple.news/Aas8WnZ5LSK-M7r-n3acUvA>



## **The Trump administration scrapped the endangerment finding. Now what?**

The endangerment finding paved the way for federal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from cars, trucks, and power plants. Now that the Environmental Protection Agency has repealed the finding, the future of U.S. climate policy is in limbo. Marketplace's Amy Scott joins Kimberly to explain what the repeal could mean for the auto

industry, American consumers, and the United States' place in the global transition to clean energy.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-trump-administration-scrapped-the/id1181589165?i=1000753459436>

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**wbur**

**This 'fairyland' bog is a beacon for winter birders – and a sponge for the climate**

Nothing stops a chat between birders faster than a flash of feathers in the sky.

Just a few steps into their stroll through Sax Zim Bog, three naturalists go hush at the sight of a Canada jay, a gray-and-white songbird with a fluffy coat of plumage to insulate it through harsh winters. It's also called a camp robber for its inquisitiveness around picnics.

"I love Canada jays. They've been associated with humans probably forever," said a delighted Sparky Stensaas. "They're extremely intelligent corvids, but they also associate people with food."

<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2026/03/05/minnesota-birding-bog>

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**Spread the word.**

**If you know someone that may be interested in this Newsletter, please forward this email on to them.**

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](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

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