



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS May Program

The First Annual Bert Szabo Legacy Address:

LEAPing for Biodiversity in 2023 and Beyond!

Presented by Judy Semroc

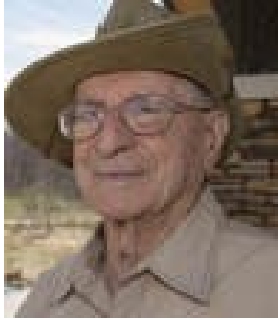
Tuesday, May 23, 2023 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Note Special Location: Himelright Lodge

Cascade Valley Metro Park, Valley View Area

1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313





Bert Szabo: 1920 – 2022



Judy Semroc, naturalist

We welcome conservation specialist, field biologist and naturalist Judy Semroc as she presents the first annual address honoring the life and memory of the late Summit Metro Parks' first naturalist, Bert Szabo. She'll convey the vision that Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP) for Biodiversity has for northeast Ohio and will detail the top priorities that we should take to sustain the biological diversity of plants and wildlife so that our own health and quality of life are preserved. The conservation of nature is a great investment and legacy for all. See more detail at [May 23, 2023 - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#)



**The Fourth Annual Black Birders Week is May 28 – June 3,
2023**

Flying Full Circle

May 28-June 3

#BlackBirdersWeek2023



Black Birders Week 2023 features a series of events nationwide from May 28 to June 3 aimed at highlighting Black nature enthusiasts and increasing the visibility of Black birders, who face unique challenges and risks when engaging in outdoor activities. Organized by the Black AF in STEM Collective, the week seeks to support, uplift, and amplify Black STEM professionals in natural resources and the environment through professional development, career connection, and community engagement. The collective also aims to inspire new audiences to engage in nature and share the stories of Black conservationists from across the African diaspora. The theme for Black Birders Week 2023 is Flying Full Circle. Follow the week's activities on Facebook: [The Black AF in STEM Collective | Facebook](#) or on the group's website: [Black AF In STEM](#).

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## Ohio Woodland Stewards Program (Webinar)

Friday, June 2, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### A Potential New Nemesis for Garlic Mustard?

### Identifying and Reporting a Newly-Arrived Garlic Mustard Specialist Aphid- *Lipaphis alliariae*

Note: While not directly related to birds, this topic may be of great interest to those interested in biodiversity and the ecologically destructive forces that invasive species wreak on bird habitat.

**CFAES** OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program

*Friday's*  
**ESCAPE TO THE FOREST**

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

On Friday's we will host webinars on Ohio's woodlands, wildlife, invasive species, management recommendations and more!

[Woodlandstewards.osu.edu/resources](http://Woodlandstewards.osu.edu/resources)

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

**WEBINAR**

Friday June 2nd 10 am - 12 pm

**A Potential New Nemesis for Garlic Mustard?  
Identifying and Reporting a Newly Arrived  
Garlic Mustard Specialist Aphid- *Lipaphis alliariae***

Join Rebecah Troutman, Natural Areas Biologist, Holden Forests and Gardens to learn about this garlic mustard specialist aphid native to Europe. Discovered at Holden in 2021 we need to better understand the impact it could have on our garlic mustard population. Could it be a biocontrol agent?

Registration: [go.osu.edu/garlicmustard](http://go.osu.edu/garlicmustard)

Join Holden Arboretum's Natural Areas Biologist Rebecah Troutman to learn more about a newly discovered enemy of the invasive garlic mustard. This webinar will teach

participants how to find and identify *Lipaphis alliariae*, a garlic mustard specialist aphid native to Europe. This aphid was found during the 2021 field season. Affected plants produced twisted seed pods and puckered/wilted leaves. Given the importance of controlling garlic mustard, the novel nature of the newly discovered aphid in the United States, we are trying to better understand the impact this species has on garlic mustard—could it be a desperately needed biocontrol agent? The objective is to quantify the impact of this novel aphid on garlic mustard and map its current distribution. Use this corrected link to register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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**Medina County Metro Parks**  
**Ongoing Native Plant Sale**  
**June 3 – June 25, 2023**  
**Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Oenslager Nature Center**  
**6100 Ridge Rd.**  
**Sharon Township**  
**(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)**



This plant sale is a great opportunity to choose from a selection of reasonably-priced, ecologically important native plants that will help promote biodiversity in your landscape. A variety of species in limited quantities will be available. Cash or check only. Please bring your own carrying containers.

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**Back Yards Gone Wild: Pollinators**  
**Sunday, June 4, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Liberty Metro Park, Nature Center**  
**9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087**



Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and friends! Learn how to make your yard pollinator-friendly! Topics to be discussed include: planting ideas, bee baths, nesting needs and more. Participants will create a simple bee house and wildflower seeds will be available to take home, while supplies last. The program will end with a short walk in search of these creatures in the gardens around the nature center.



### **Bird Nerds: Summer Specials**

**Saturday, June 10, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Liberty Metro Park, Nature Center**

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



Summer specials are on the agenda! Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are invited to join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist in this series that explores a new group of birds each month of the year. Topics addressed will be adaptations, behavior, identification and more. After the presentation, hit the trail with the naturalist to practice finding some of these summer birds. Binoculars are recommended.



### **Bird Walks & Field Trips**

**Swallow Swarm**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Cascade Valley Metro Park, Overlook Area**

**354 Sackett Ave., Akron, OH 44313**



Have you ever seen a bird dig? Bank swallows do! Join a naturalist from Summit Metro Parks to see the Bank Swallows as they return from more southerly latitudes. Learn about the unique behaviors of this species that is recognized to have a conservation status of a *Common Bird in Steep Decline*.



**GAAS Bird Walk**

**Final Saturday Walk**

**May 27, 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 the final walk for this migratory season at Firestone Metro Park. Meet at the bridge over the canal race at 7:30 a.m. Participants can arrive and depart at any time. Come join us along the race; we're easy to find and we walk slow.



**Spring Bird Walk**

**Saturday, May 27, 2023 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park**



Birders of all experience levels can join a naturalist for a spring bird walk at this park, designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Binoculars are recommended.



**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Bird Walk**

**Saturday, June 3, 2023 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Pine Hollow Trailhead Parking Lot**

**5465 Quick Road, Peninsula 44264**



Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk up and down steep trails in the Virginia Kendall Hills looking for Prairie Warblers.



**Field & Forest Bird Walk**

**Sunday, June 4, 2023 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Munroe Falls Metro Park, Tallmadge Meadows Area**

**1088 North Ave, Tallmadge, OH 44278**



They're back! Hike with a naturalist and search for migratory and resident birds alike in the open meadow and forest edge. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide.

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## News You Can Use



### A Timely Message from Doug Tallamy:

#### Living with Biodiversity

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22nd *The International Day for Biological Diversity* to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues – a timely prelude to our May program about Biodiversity and LEAP for Biodiversity. Doug Tallamy recently penned a cogent piece for Homegrown National Park advocates about the urgency of living with intent to share our space with the natural world. By practicing conservation in our human-dominated landscapes – maximizing the plants with most potential benefits for insects and birds, tolerating aesthetic imperfection, and abandoning pesticide use – we can re-imagine our landscapes as ecologically supportive communities that nurture the life we all need. Let's accept the challenge of responsible earth stewardship and spread the word to our friends and neighbors. Here's Doug's full message: [Biodiversity Day - 22 May — HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK](#)

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### What's the Difference Between Birding and Bird Watching?

An interesting distinction was recently posted on [BadgerlandBirding.com](#), a website created by two brothers in Wisconsin. Watch their short YouTube video, [Birder vs. Bird Watcher: Which One Are You? - YouTube](#) or read the transcript here: [What's the Difference Between Birding and Bird Watching? | Badgerland Birding](#). [Note: National



Audubon Society doesn't favor either definition; the organization's focus is on protecting birds and the places they need.]

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## National Audubon's Summer Climate Watch is Underway!



Photo: Mike Fernandez/Audubon

The next Climate Watch survey season will run from May 15 to June 15. A new(er) ongoing community science program explores how North American birds are responding to climate change. Help build a better world for birds by joining Climate Watch to test and improve climate models. Our Climate Watch coordinator is Mary Anne Romito, from Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and **Saturday, June 3, 2023 8:00 a.m. to noon** has been chosen as their big day to come out and do the survey. There are still survey squares that have not been assigned in Summit County. If you can identify bluebirds, nuthatches, goldfinches, or towhees by sight and sound, or are eager to learn, put your bird knowledge to use and help conduct surveys to see how these species are already responding to climate change in our area. Even if June 3<sup>rd</sup> isn't feasible for you, it's still possible to participate as long as the counts are done within the above timeframe. Learn more about the ongoing effort here: [Climate Watch | Audubon](#) and If you have questions or would like a new square, contact Mary Anne at [216-990-2632](tel:216-990-2632) or email her at [maryanneromito@gmail.com](mailto:maryanneromito@gmail.com).

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## Wood Thrush as Ohio's State Bird?

While "playing" with eBird data as a hobby, Matt Smith, an applications programmer for the Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, thought that more aptly-chosen state birds may be suggested based on "how much of a bird species' global population occurs in each state or province at a given time of year." Ohio's state bird, the Northern Cardinal,

is also the state bird of six other states (Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina). By prioritizing breeding-season stats and selecting a different bird species for each state without duplication, Smith's thought experiment suggested that the Wood Thrush may be a better choice for Ohio's state bird because "with 8.2% of the global population breeding in Ohio, the second highest percentage of any state, Ohio also has the third-highest population density of Wood Thrush during the breeding season." Read more about the possibilities proposed in the light-hearted article from *Cornell Lab's April 2023 eNews* and Spring 2023 issue of *Living Bird* magazine, in which Smith and co-author Marc Devokaitis, the associate editor of *Living Bird* magazine, offer a five-part series of suggestions for state birds of the United States and Canadian provinces [A Modest Proposal: Can eBird Help Choose Better State Birds? \[Part 1\]](#) | [All About Birds](#) .

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### **Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland to Celebrate Centennial!**



Our chapter of National Audubon Society would like to ***congratulate ASGC as they celebrate 100 years*** as an organization! To help celebrate, they are also inviting us to join them on **Saturday, June 3, 2023** at **Lake Metroparks Farmpark in Kirtland, Ohio**. Festivities will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a nature walk, social hour, dinner and special guest speaker, nationally recognized writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist **Al Batt**. Reservations need to be in by Monday, May 22, 2023 but if seriously interested in attending, please contact Mark Demyan [mjd.cconst@gmail.com](mailto:mjd.cconst@gmail.com) or call [330-848-1212](tel:330-848-1212) for a deadline exception by May 26<sup>th</sup>. More details about the celebration can be found at [centennial.pdf \(clevelandaudubon.org\)](#).

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### **Request for assistance:**

### **Song Recordings of Migrating Mourning Warblers**

Below is Dr. Jay Pitocchelli's request to Ohio birders, as posted on the Ohio Listserv, a service provided by the Ohio Ornithological Society.

I am posting my annual opportunity to participate in a Citizens Science Project that involves recording migrating Mourning Warbler songs. I am trying to determine the nature of migratory pathways taken by different song populations of Mourning Warbler males during their spring migration. I am continuing to collect your recordings and plot them on a map of North America to determine if and where birds with different song types (regiolects)

separate from each other during spring migration. The most current map of songs of migrants is at the web site below.

[Mourning Warbler Song Mapper - Google My Maps](#)

All you need is a Smartphone and a singing Mourning Warbler. You can send the recordings to my e-mail address ([jpitocch@anselm.edu](mailto:jpitocch@anselm.edu)). The web page link below describes the project and how to make recordings on your Smartphone in more detail.

[USING SONGS TO STUDY MOURNING WARBLER MIGRATION - Home \(weebly.com\)](#)

I would really appreciate your help and contributions to this Citizens Science Project.

Dr. Jay Pitocchelli

Professor Emeritus

Biology Department

Saint Anselm College

Manchester, NH 03102

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### **Rosemary Mosco on Story of the House Sparrow**

Rosemary Mosco, science writer, naturalist and cartoonist, penned and illustrated this piece for **Audubon** magazine. Rosemary says, “I wrote and illustrated an article about the complex human history of house sparrows. This article was the product of months of research and interviews, and I'm very proud of it.”

#### ***Meet the Little Brown Bird That Holds a Mirror Up to Humanity***

*Whether we love, hate, or ignore the familiar House Sparrow, its story can teach us about how we relate to the natural world—and each other.*



Illustration: Rosemary Mosco

Read the article here: [Meet the Little Brown Bird That Holds a Mirror Up to Humanity | Audubon](#)

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## Audubon Introduces a Redesigned Bird Guide App



The Audubon Bird Guide is a *free* and complete field guide to over 800 species of North American birds, right in your pocket. Built for all experience levels, it will help you identify the birds around you, keep track of the birds you've seen, and get outside to find new birds near you. The Bird ID functions much like Cornell Lab's Merlin App and contains photos, range maps, audio clips and in-depth text by Kenn Kaufman. The Sightings feature allows one to keep a record of birds seen and the app interfaces with eBird to let you know where nearby birding hotspots are with real-time eBird posts. Share photos with other app users and use the advocacy feature to keep up with the latest news from the world of birds, science, and conservation and take action directly from the app. Available for iOS and Android: [Audubon Bird Guide App | Audubon](#)

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## June Census of Summit County

**June 9<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Reminder this summer's June Census is right around the corner. It will take place from June 9<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>. 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!

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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

## Greater Akron Audubon Society

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