



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS May Program

**Conserving the Lower Killbuck Creek Wetlands:
A Partnership Effort between Killbuck Watershed Land Trust and Arc of
Appalachia**

Randy Carmel, President, Killbuck Watershed Land Trust

Tuesday, May 24, 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)



Most northeast Ohio birders are familiar with the 5000 acres of Killbuck Marsh State Wildlife Area, located in the Upper Killbuck Creek Watershed in Wayne and northern Holmes County. However, the wetlands in the Lower Watershed, consisting of 135 acres of freshwater forested shrub and emergent wetlands in Holmes County, remained in private hands—until last year.

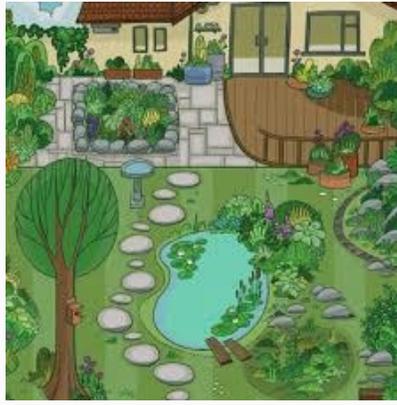
In its 26 years of existence, the Arc of Appalachia has acquired and protected thousands of acres of biodiverse landscapes in southern Ohio. For the first time in its history, the organization has moved northward in its preservation efforts to help save the intact

wetlands ecosystem of the Lower Killbuck Creek Watershed. The Arc recognized the extraordinary opportunity to save the property from development through a partnership with Killbuck Watershed Land Trust (KWLT) last year when it learned the acreage was for sale and has taken primary responsibility for raising the funds for site acquisition and visitor service development. With the help of a Clean Ohio grant, funds were obtained for the purchase of the property. But the Arc still seeks funds from the general public to finalize the project. See this inspiring video about the area and the Arc's role: [Killbuck Swamp Video | Arc of Appalachia](#). The Killbuck Swamp Preserve will be co-owned by both the Arc and KWLT and will be protected with strong and enduring natural area covenants. Killbuck Watershed Land Trust was incorporated in 2001 in response to rapid residential and commercial development, and is a nonprofit conservation organization for local landowners wanting to protect and preserve their land—whether that land is agricultural, woodlots, wetlands or land with unique historical or ecological features. To date, the organization is overseeing conservation easements protecting approximately 10,000 acres of farmland and wildlife preserves throughout Wayne, Holmes, Richland, Ashland, Coshocton and Tuscarawas Counties. KWLT is assuming the primary responsibility for the day-to-day management of the new Killbuck Swamp Preserve and is seeking funding for Killbuck Swamp's long-term stewardship. The mission of the KWLT is partnering with its surrounding communities to preserve the rural and natural integrity of land throughout the Killbuck Creek watershed and neighboring areas. See their website: [Killbuck Watershed Land Trust](#)

Randy will discuss his current protection efforts with KWLT and Arc of Appalachia as they relate to Killbuck Swamp Preserve. And he'll call attention to the two other KWLT preserves that are open to the public for hiking, canoeing or kayaking, nature photography, birdwatching, and enjoying the natural beauty of the area: Brinkhaven Oak Barrens and Baker Wetlands.

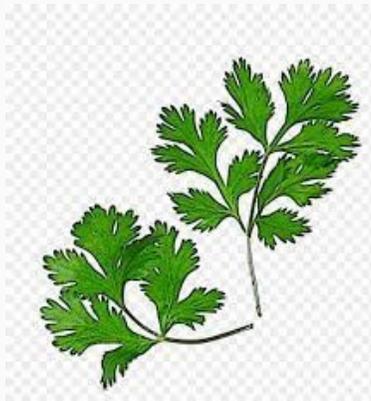
Please Note: Do not rely on your GPS to direct you to this location. Shady Hollow Lodge is most reliably approached from the east via the intersection of N. Portage Path and Sand Run Parkway.

Other Programs and Events of Interest (In Chronologic Order)



Habitat Happenings: Your Back Yard
Today: Sunday, May 22, 2022 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Campfire Area
1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313

Today is *International Day for Biological Diversity*. Join a naturalist with Summit Metro Parks to discover the importance of your own back yard. An open discussion and hike will feature the topic of *why plants matter and what you can do to help wildlife*. Follow along with this “Habitat Happenings” series to learn different ways you can help life around you.

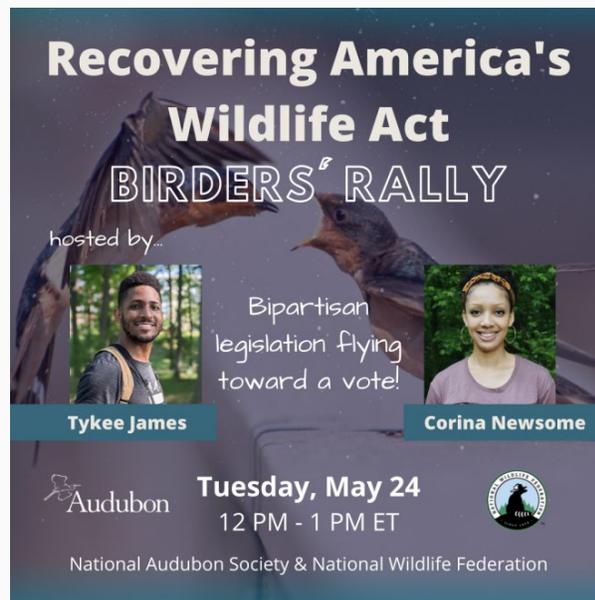


Good Gardens: Plant Swap
Monday, May 23, 2022 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Goodyear Heights Metro Park Lodge
2077 Newton St., Akron, OH 44305

Join Summit Metro Parks to swap plants. Bring your own plants (from cuttings, seeds, volunteers, etc.), contained in pots and labeled by name. **Vegetables and herbs** are

preferred, but all plants are welcome. All are encouraged to attend, even without plants to share.

Online Birder's Rally: With Special Guests Including Kenn Kaufman, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Bird Conservancy, and More!



Calling all bird lovers! We need everyone who cares about birds (and conservation of wildlife) to rally together for the passage of the ***Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)***. With historic levels of funding and support from both sides of the aisle, this once-in-a-generation legislation is a rare bird. Join Corina Newsome of the National Wildlife Federation and Tykee James of the National Audubon Society as they flock together in support of this critical bill, which will help protect birds long into the future and make the enjoyment of birds more accessible for all! Register for the Rally here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#) If you can't attend and haven't yet asked your members of Congress to support this legislation, please do so now: [Ask Congress to Step Up for Our Birds and Wildlife \(abcbirds.org\)](#)



OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

OBCI Webinar Series: Grassland Birds, with Joseph Lautenbach

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Birds dependent on grassland systems are extremely varied and include raptors, shorebirds, and many passerines. Unfortunately, many grassland birds have experienced extensive declines throughout North America. Learn about the ecology and management of this unique suite of species as Joseph Lautenbach, Wildlife Biologist with ODNR-Division of Wildlife presents to OBCI for another event in an ongoing series of webinars highlighting research and conservation in Ohio. To register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Black Birders Week: Sunday, May 29 – Saturday, June 4



As an intro to Black Birders Week 2022, listen to a 15-minute clip from December 2021 on NPR from Gisele Grayson, editor of *Short Wave*, about ***Celebrating the Joys of Birding*** and Rhitu Chatterjee as she talks to Deja Perkins who is a co-founder of #Black Birders Week. [2021: Celebrating The Joy Of Birds : Short Wave : NPR](#)



The BlackAFinSTEM Collective seeks to support, uplift, and amplify Black STEM professionals in natural resources and the environment through professional development, career connection, and community engagement. Their aim is to inspire new audiences to engage in nature and share the stories of Black conservationists from across the country.

Join them Sunday, May 29th through Saturday, June 4th, for a different daily focus, on Facebook: [\(6\) The Black AF in STEM Collective | Facebook](#). Many Ohioans may recognize

one of this year's organizers, Nicole Jackson; she's a Clevelander and also an OSU graduate and former Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist coordinator assistant to Ann Baird.

Nicole has teamed up with Jennifer Fee at Cornell Lab to produce a new online course at the Bird Academy for 6 – 10-year-olds. Find out more about it here: [Let's Go Outside! How](#)

[to Connect Kids with Birds and Nature | Bird Academy • The Cornell Lab](#)
([allaboutbirds.org](#))



Join BirdNote midweek on Wednesday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m. as they team with Black Birders Week to explore the connection between nature and mental health. Learn how to combine mindfulness and bird watching to improve mental health. The **Bring Birds Back** podcast host Tenijah Hamilton moderates this discussion with Black Birders Week organizers Sheridan Alford, Nicole Jackson, and Deja Perkins. Register for this virtual

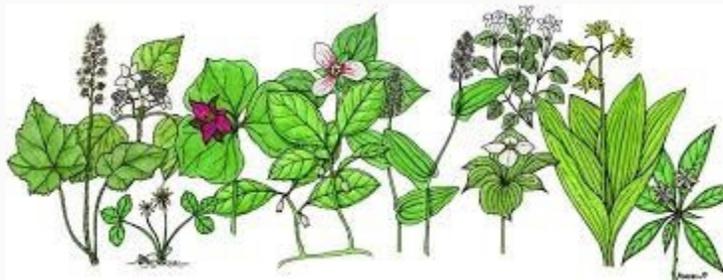
program here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

From NPR: Bird-watcher wrongfully accused in Central Park video gets a bird-watching TV show



Jon Kroll/National Geographic

The National Geographic channel announced this week that Christian Cooper, a lifelong bird-watcher, will host a series called *Extraordinary Birder*. In the series, Cooper will take viewers into the "wild, wonderful and unpredictable world of birds," according to National Geographic. The channel has yet to announce a premier date for the show. Read the NPR item from May 19, 2022 here: [NY bird-watcher Christian Cooper gets National Geographic TV show : NPR](#)



Native Plant Festival!

Saturday, May 28, 2022 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cascade Valley Metro Park/Valley View Area

1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313

Let's show the Summit Metro Parks organizers of this big event that we're serious about

joining the movement to plant native plants while providing year-round cover, nesting habitat and food sources for the birds in our home spaces. Join Summit Metro Parks staff and local native plant nurseries to learn more about the vital role of native plants in our ecosystem. Browse a wide variety of plants available for purchase, or attend an educational session to better understand how to incorporate native plants into your landscaping. Summit Metro Parks is offering a free plant to all attendees, while supplies last. Vendors from Ohio as well as **Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, West Virginia, Ontario, New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Iowa** will be coming. Food will be available from Slyman's Food Truck with music by CLE Music Group. Seminars and hands-on activities will include: Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden (10:30 – 11:00 a.m.), Providing Nesting Opportunities for Pollinators (11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.), Restoring the Natural Landscape at Valley View (12:30 – 1:00 pm) and a Guided Valley View Hike (2:00 – 3 p.m.).

Confused about what to buy or start planting in your home space? Before attending the festival, check out Audubon's Native Plant Database, customized by zip code: [Native Plants | Audubon](#) or see Homegrown National Park's Facebook page [\(7\) Homegrown National Park | Facebook](#) or their website [HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK](#) to get motivated. Together, we CAN regenerate biodiversity – one person at a time!

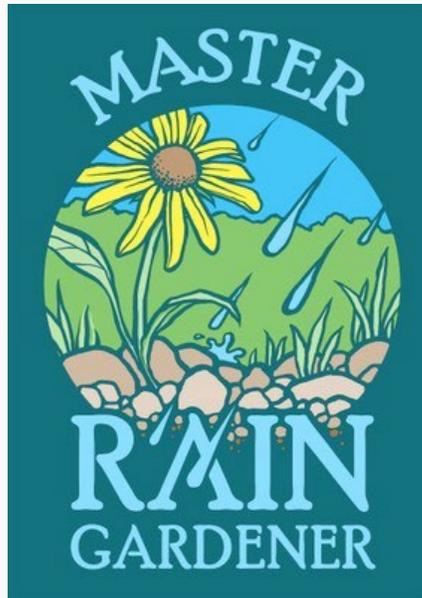


Go Native!

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm/ Rock & Herb Garden Area
1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313

Drop in at the Rock & Herb Garden to discover why you should ditch exotic or invasive species and fill your home landscape with beautiful and ecologically important native plants instead! Wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs and trees — every species plays its part!

Native seed packets will be available for attendees to bring nature home!



Train to be a Master Rain Gardener!

Learn to design and install your own rain garden and be the rain garden expert in your neighborhood. Master Rain Gardeners help friends and neighbors to learn about, design, and plant rain gardens. The Master Rain Gardener Program, offered through Summit Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will teach you how to manage rainwater in your own yard. A *VIRTUAL* orientation class will be held on **June 08, 2022**, followed by a series of online courses. The online courses will be held via Zoom meetings. The first lesson will be discussed on **June 16, 2022 and the last will be discussed on July 14, 2022**. You are able to complete the courses at your convenience within the allotted course time. Summit SWCD staff will provide you with feedback on your weekly homework assignments and quizzes. Upon completion of the course, you will receive your Master Rain Gardener certificate. Completion of the course includes installing your own rain garden, or helping to

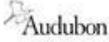
install or maintain a community rain garden as a volunteer. Registration for the summer class is now open. Please [click here](#) to register now!! Cost of the class is \$25.00. Registration and payment must be received by **June 2**. Accepted forms of payment include cash/check. Please call 330-926-2452 for more information and any questions that you may have.

Low Power Happy Hour: How Birds Connect Us
Wednesday, June 8, 2022 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Happy Days Lodge
500 West Streetsboro Street (SR 303), Peninsula, OH 44264

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park has a new speaker series on the second Wednesday of each month. **Low Power Happy Hour** “features local professionals who work in and around the topic of sustainability,” and a local musician. The three-hour event starts with a cocktail hour and progresses to a musical performance, followed by the speaker(s). A short Q&A session follows and the evening concludes with a final short musical performance by that evening’s featured artist. The inaugural event features views on **birds** from an artist’s and a scientist’s perspective. Ed Caner, is the featured musician.



Birds are fascinating subjects. For an artist, they offer variety, beauty, and a window into the natural world. For a scientist, the massive data sets created by birdwatchers are providing new insights into bird habits and conservation needs. Photographer Jim Roetzel and biologist Ryan Trimbath will use a selection of Jim’s photos to explore what we can learn by observing birds. These photos are part of a traveling exhibit, *Wings and Voices Over the Cuyahoga*, now at the gallery across from Boston Store. Fee: \$25, \$22 Conservancy members, includes cocktails, music, and speakers. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/low-power-happy-hour-tickets-265187191027>.



SAVE-THE DATE
2022 Audubon Great Lakes Chapter Gathering
Wed. June 8th - "Virtual" Open House – 3:30pm CT/4:30pm ET
Fri. June 10th – Afternoon Virtual Zoom – 12:00pm CT/1:00pm ET
Sat. June 11th & Sun. June 12th – Birding Trips

- Keynote speaker: Marshall Johnson, Chief Conservation Officer
- Celebration of chapter accomplishments
- Chapter posters
- Awards ceremony
- Chapter hosted field trips
- Audubon door prizes!

With questions, please reach out to Izabela Grobelna, Engagement Manager at Audubon Great Lakes: Izabela.Grobelna@Audubon.org



2022 Audubon Great Lakes Chapter Gathering (Virtual) Friday, June 10, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Audubon Great Lakes (AGL) is our Audubon chapter's regional entity that keeps us informed on a monthly basis about advocacy issues and news from chapters in our five-state area: Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Every two years, AGL has a fun, regional conference that celebrates chapter accomplishments and offers a conservation keynote speaker and chapter presentations—along with “door prizes” and virtual poster sessions. Any chapter members are encouraged to join in to see what work is being done in our region. This year, they have chosen to present a special award: the ***Alan Dolan Conservation Advocacy Award***, named for Canton Audubon Society's president of 30 years. Alan served on the board of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters and was a dedicated Regional Director representing the chapter voice on the National Audubon Society's board. He was passionate champion for community service, advocating for the environment, and the value of Audubon's chapter network. Alan was often the go-to person in his community especially for recycling and environmental issues and readily gave his time and resources to other chapters. Read Canton Audubon Society's tribute to Alan here: [Microsoft Word - ANV Final Tribute Color.docx \(wordpress.com\)](#) At this time, we do not have a registration link to sign up; however, if you are interested in attending, please email info@akronaudubon.org and we'll be sure you get a registration link. Or, check our Facebook page for the link during the week of June 5th.

The gathering will last approximately 2 ½ hours.

The virtual afternoon event will be followed by local chapter bird walks in each state on

June 11 or 12. Our chapter will host the follow-up bird walk at Summit Lake Nature Center on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. (See Bird Walks, below, for more details).

Bird Walks

Sundays at the Beaver Marsh in May 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Ira Trailhead Parking Lot

3801 Riverview Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264

Join members of Greater Akron Audubon Society on Sunday mornings through May 27, 2022 to walk along the Towpath Trail on this flat, accessible path and boardwalk to discover a variety of birds and animals. Please bring binoculars.

Spring Bird Walk

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park

5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula, OH 44264

Join a naturalist with birders of all experience levels at this Important Bird Area (IBA). Important Bird Areas are distinct areas that provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds in breeding, wintering, or migration.

Important Bird Areas are identified for their value to species that are threatened or endangered; restricted to a particular biome or region; restricted to one habitat type; or; occur at high densities during some portion of the year. Coordinated by BirdLife International, the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global initiative which aims at identifying and conserving the most important places for bird populations. As the United States partner of BirdLife International, the National Audubon Society administers the Important Bird Areas Program in the U.S., in coordination with local entities. Binoculars are recommended.

Spring Bird Stroll
Monday, June 6, 2022 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Cascade Valley Metro Park/Valley View Area
1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313

Migration is nearly over and spring is turning to summer. Most of the birds are now on territory and are becoming nesting birds. Walk with a naturalist to identify birds in their nesting habitats. Meet at Himelright Lodge with your binoculars.



Audubon Great Lakes 2022 Chapter Gathering: Followup Weekend Bird Walk
Saturday, June 11, 2022 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Summit Lake Nature Center
411 Ira Ave, Akron, OH 44301

Come join members of Greater Akron Audubon as they survey Summit Lake and walk on the nearby accessible Towpath Trail in search of singing or silent birds – on the water, in the trees, on the ground or in the air – or maybe in nests. Please bring your curiosity and binoculars—if you have them. Spotting scopes will be on hand to get looks at birds and other wildlife from afar. All ages are encouraged to join us – especially younger

elementary-age students and their families. We'll talk about ways that we can help birds in our home spaces. And there will be some companion surprises to celebrate the Friday AGL chapter gathering. Please note that this is not a Summit Metro Parks event and the nature center does not open until 10:00 a.m.

Other News You Can Use

Remembering Monty



From Bob Dolgan, filmmaker, "*Monty and Rose*" Turnstone Productions

[Last June, Greater Akron Audubon Society hosted filmmaker Bob Dolgan virtually as he showed his film, *Monty and Rose*, and then answered questions from our audience about the film and the famous Piping Plovers of Chicago. Below is text from a recent follow-up email from Bob about Monty.]

"In case you missed it, or are outside Chicago, we had some terrible news on Friday (May 13th) when Monty the Piping Plover passed away suddenly. Monty had just returned to the beach a few weeks ago and had always seemed invincible, with the way he took on bigger birds and did everything to protect his nest and his offspring.

Most all of the Plover Watch volunteers knew that even one summer with Monty and Rose was an experience that might never happen again. The fleeting nature of it--a species down to only 70 pairs nesting on the busiest beach in Chicago--was why it was so special.

The birds' presence became something that thousands of people rallied around and introduced untold numbers of people to Piping Plovers and birding."

Here are two videos that Bob shared in his recent email: [How Monty and Rose met - YouTube](#) and [Monty takes on much bigger birds to defend his nest - YouTube](#) "This is the kind of thing Monty did routinely, and I hope to see a Piping Plover chasing off predators in

Chicago someday again.” A necropsy is underway at the Lincoln Park Zoo and results are expected in a week or two.

No Mow May: What is It?

Launched by British conservation charity [Plantlife](#) in 2019, No Mow May has seen increasing participation in the U.S. Only just catching on to No Mow May and wondering what it is? No Mow May is a campaign to encourage people not to mow their lawns in the month of May – and to mow less during the summer. The reason? To help wildflowers and pollinating insects when both are in sharp decline. Joining in might mean not mowing all of the lawn that’s part of your backyard landscaping ideas, or leaving just a small area unmowed, but either way the aim is to let flowers bloom, and provide nectar for pollinators. Here, [HomesandGardens.com \(What is No Mow May: why and how to take part | Homes & Gardens | \(homesandgardens.com\)](#) has put together all you might want to know about No Mow May, so you can decide if participating is right for you. Or, have a 3-minute listen about the movement from NPR’s Morning Edition from May 2, 2022 [Need an excuse not to mow your lawn? Join 'no mow May' and help pollinators : NPR](#)



Red Clover

Biodiversity in the News



At a recent United Nations-backed meeting of most of the world's countries that are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (U.S. excluded), a total of 195 countries met for two weeks in Geneva, Switzerland to make progress toward a solution that would avoid the extinction of many vulnerable species. In preparation for a high level meeting (known as COP15) in late August of this year in Kunming, China, the group is expected to meet again in June in Nairobi, Kenya. One of its own delegates from Uganda, a meeting co-chair, Francis Ogwal, stressed the urgency of the matter while lamenting the slow pace of progress and inadequate financing. Citing the close relationship between biodiversity and climate change, he stated "*Biodiversity is securing our own survival on this planet. It is not a joking matter. Every day that you live as a human being is on biodiversity.*"

A Shout Out to Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club in Pennsylvania

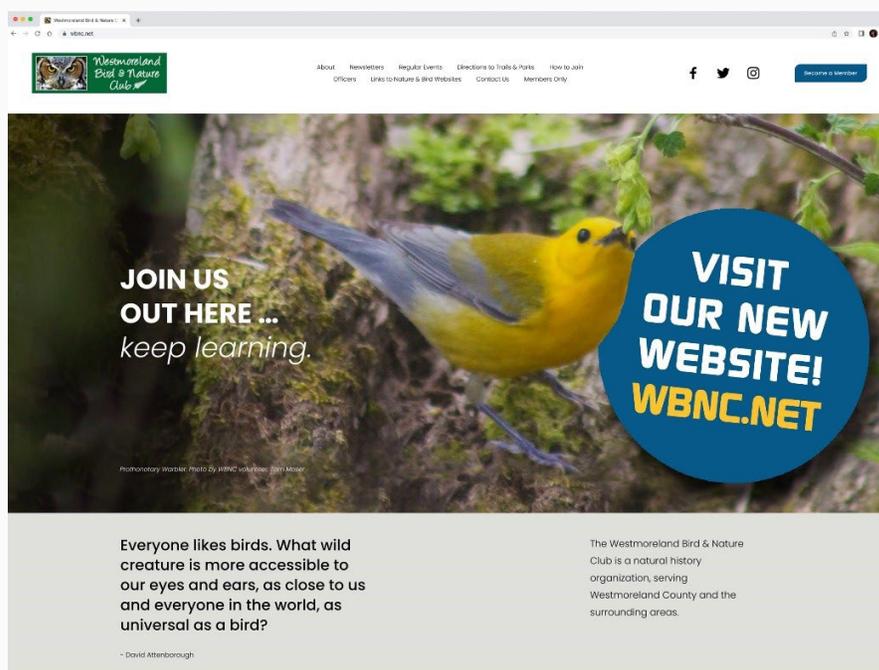
*[Ed. Note: This eNews has a growing range of distribution. Several members of the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club, located about 2 hours away – east of Pittsburgh, also receive **For the Birds** and have attended our virtual programs, participated in our Christmas Bird Count, etc. The connection? Paul Moser, our chapter's Vice-President, is the son of Tom & Billie Moser, who are also on the Executive Committee of WBNC. Tom has submitted this informational piece about their group and states, "We would be honored to have you or any member of the Greater Akron Audubon Society join us at any of our events."]*

The Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club (WBNC) is a natural history organization, serving

Westmoreland County and the surrounding areas. The WBNC is primarily an outdoor club averaging about 30 field trips a year for birds, butterflies, flowering plants, dragonflies, damselflies, trees and general ecology. Outings can be hiking, canoeing, or cycling in nature. Sometimes impromptu field trips are organized over the internet (as in Twitter or by email). In addition, members participate in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count in early May. Field trips are sometimes held in conjunction with The Botanical Society of Westmoreland County (BSWC), and The Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), or other such groups. Several of our WBNC members belong to the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.

Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club has a new upgraded website that works to complement its Facebook group site

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1079279279514923/>). The website highlights the officers, who we are, newsletters, outings, directions to 40 Westmoreland County nature areas, provides information about references folks use – such as suggestions on optics and cameras, smartphone apps and links to many other organizations. Come check it out: [Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club \(wbnc.net\)](http://wbnc.net).



The very active Facebook group site, which anyone can join for free, is used to post, discuss and respond to posts about nature: birds, flora, and fauna in our region and sometimes well outside the United States. Upcoming events (open to anyone) are also posted here and other nature clubs and organizations are invited to post on our FB site. Three general membership meetings, including a summer picnic, are held each year in the Barn at the Donohoe Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg PA. 15601. A quarterly newsletter, **The Syrinx**, summarizes past field trips, upcoming events, natural history information, and recent bird sightings. The Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club (formerly Westmoreland County Bird Club) formed on February 26, 1981, to promote interest in

birds, conservation and to provide field trips primarily in Westmoreland County, PA. The range of field trips has now extended beyond Westmoreland County borders. And since the first newsletter, Volume 1 #1, in March 1981, when five field trips were scheduled and seven people were listed as paid charter members, the club membership and its offerings have grown appreciably.

Recently, we posted the summary results from our Spring Migration Count (see graphic below). We are currently in 3rd place in species count in Pennsylvania with a few more member lists to collect. While we probably will not catch Erie County with Presque Isle, we have a shot at passing Centre County. This ranking is quite respectable. Stay tuned!



GAAS Volunteer Opportunity: Chapter Representative to COAC

Our chapter, along with nine others in the state (there are currently about 14 viable chapters on record), has participated in the restart of the Council of Ohio Audubon

Chapters since June 2018. Meetings are typically an hour long and are held via Zoom/phone conference once a month on a Tuesday evening year-round. The Council seeks to support chapters through networking between the chapters, affiliates, individuals, and the National Audubon Society. Your chapter could use your help; we need someone who would be willing to represent Greater Akron Audubon Society and act as a liaison with our leadership. Any willing candidate could be gradually introduced to the meeting format and current representatives from other chapters for a few months prior to the start of the new fiscal year that begins July 1, 2022. If you'd like to help, please email info@akronaudubon.org.

Look for the next issue of *For the Birds* on June 12, 2022

**Our final meeting and Chapter picnic will be held at Bath Nature Preserve on June 28, 2022.

Larry Hunter, Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, will present our program.

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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