



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS May Program

The Second Annual Bert Szabo Legacy Address

Featuring Speaker Jim McCormac

Mysterious Moths - Growing the Darker Side of Butterflies

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Himelright Lodge

Valley View area of Cascade Valley Metro Park

1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313



Our enchantment with butterflies isn't surprising. These daytime flyers are easily observed and collectively encompass a rainbow palette of colors punctuated with ornate patterns. However, their close relatives, the moths, overwhelm butterflies in species diversity and sheer numbers. Most moths are nocturnal and largely out of sight and mind. Nonetheless, they are one of the most important animal groups. Moths are inextricably intertwined with native plants, bats, birds, and the whole of the eastern deciduous forest ecosystem. They play an enormous role in the pollination of native plants and over the eons have spurred the evolution of myriad defensive plant compounds to ward off caterpillar herbivory. In addition, they are often far more interesting than butterflies, both visually and behaviorally. This talk will be a pictorial journey into an intriguing and little-known world that unfolds all around us. We can greatly benefit the ecosystem around us by "moth-gardening" in our yards.

Spring 2024 Climate Watch

May 15 – June 15, 2024



This community science effort is open to the public, including all interested Audubon chapters and centers, in addition to organized groups and individuals with an interest in birds. 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 Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society conduct surveys to see how these species are already responding to climate change in our area. Saturday, June 1, 2024 is designated as the “big day,” weather permitting, but if that doesn’t work for you, anytime between May 15 and June 15 is fine. To learn more about participating in this program, check out the video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odMMA6GGAOo>) and fast forward to about 17 minutes in, when Mary Anne Romito, Climate Watch Coordinator for Northeast Ohio, explains what the project is all about and how to participate and record your observations. If you’d like to participate in Summit County, there are squares available. Contact Mary Anne at maryanneromito@gmail.com for more information.

Black Birders Week Events

May 28 – June 1, 2024



Heat Islands and Summer Birding

Panel Discussion Hosted by BirdNote

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 3:00 p.m.

Join BirdNote and Black AF in STEM on Tuesday, May 28th at 12pm PST/3pm EST for a special conversation about heat islands and summer birding. Learn about important aspects of urban bird and wildlife conservation as they relate to summer birding and rising temperatures. Join a panel of biologists, naturalists and educators for an enlightening discussion to help raise awareness about the challenges facing birds and marginalized communities in urban environments, and how we can best take care of ourselves as temperatures continue to rise. Register for this free (but limited registrants) Zoom session here: [Black Birders Week: Heat Islands and Summer Birding Tickets, Tue, May 28, 2024 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Wings of Justice: Soaring for Change

Panel Discussion Hosted by National Audubon

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 5:00 p.m.

The fifth annual Black Birders Week is from Sunday, May 26 to Saturday, June 1, organized by The Black AF In STEM Collective. This year's theme is Wings of Justice: Soaring for Change, underscoring their commitment to bird conservation, environmental justice, and community care. This year, Audubon will also be hosting a live panel discussion that will delve into the unique experiences and challenges faced by Black birders in today's outdoor and birding communities. From encountering racial bias to forging paths of inclusion and belonging, panelists will share their stories, insights, and strategies for navigating the world of birding while Black. Tune in live to Audubon's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/nationalaudubon>) to hear panelists explore the intersection of race, identity, and nature, highlighting the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in birding and environmental conservation.

Looking Ahead:

47th Annual Summer Breeding Bird Census

June 7 – 16, 2024

Call for Volunteers



As of May 22, 2024, there are several territories that need coverage this year. Volunteers are needed in Areas 3, 25, and possibly 28. A map of the territories can be found here: [Summer Census Territories - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). Areas 3 and 4 are in the northwest corner of Summit County (in blue and yellow overlays) and Area 28 is in the southwest corner of the county (in blue overlay). 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) if you can help during this 10-day period or if you know someone who may be able to help.

Bird Walk

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Bird Walk

Saturday, June 1, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Kendall Lake Shelter and Trailhead
1000 Truxell Road, Peninsula, OH 44264



Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk around Kendall Lake looking for Pine Warblers, and onto the steep trails of the Virginia Kendall Hills looking for Prairie Warblers.

News You Can Use

NPR News Roundup:



Over the course of the last several weeks, there have been a number of interesting bird-related news programs from National Public Radio. Among them:

- [The brown pelican crisis of 2024 is here : NPR](#) (4 minutes)
- [Birds are having a hard time migrating this spring. What can we do to make it easier? | 1A \(the1a.org\)](#) (46 minutes) Note: At about 21 minutes in, a comment about window collisions from GAAS Board member *Jodie DeLamatre* [who wrote in to promote the use of BirdCast] is read as a segue to Amanda Rodewald's discussion of Cornell Lab's tools that the public can use during migration.
- [Bobolinks are the stars of a new art installation on a Massachusetts farm | Here & Now \(wbur.org\)](#) (5 minutes)
- [Scientists study the mysteries of bird migration in the mountains of Los Angeles : NPR](#) (8 minutes)

- [Look, up in the sky, it's the Biggest Week in American Birding! | Ideastream Public Media](#)
- [For birds, siblinghood can get complicated : NPR](#) (3 minutes)
- [This week in science: Clever chickadees, smiling robots and haiku's most popular bugs : NPR](#) (7 minutes)

Merlin Got a Makeover!



If you use Merlin to identify birds by sight or by sound, or use the Bird ID Wizard, you may have noticed that it has a new look on both Android and iPhones. The latest update brings exciting features designed to enhance your birding experience including a personalized Bird of the Day, updated appearance across the app, and more improvements to Sound ID. If your app has not updated and your Bird of the Day is not displaying, visit the [App Store](#) on Apple devices, or [Play Store](#) on Android devices to update!

Whether you're a seasoned birder or just starting out, these new features will help you connect with nature in a whole new way:

- **Updated look:** The layout makes the app more intuitive, faster to use, and easier to learn about the birds around you.
- **Introducing your Bird of the Day:** Get ready to discover a new bird every day with a personalized Bird of the Day picked just for you.
- **Explore species while you listen:** Hear a new bird with [Sound ID](#)? Now you can read more about the species without stopping recording, so you don't miss out on other IDs.
- **More ways to add to your Life List:** Add to your Life List directly from Explore.

And now, a Cautionary Tale about Using Merlin for eBird Checklists

From Laura Erickson



Laura Erickson publishes a blog for subscribers and also airs her posts on the radio from Duluth, Minnesota. In a recent post entitled, ***Merlin: Even the greatest wizard has limitations*** cautions all who use or depend on Merlin not to report directly from eBird, but to verify a species by sight or known vocalizations. Many times, Merlin won't pick up a vocalization, or, if it does, it can be completely inaccurate. Listen as Laura tells about a recent birding experience that illustrates why we must always verify before listing a bird on eBird: [media.lauraerickson.com/radio/Merlin All Wizards Have Limitations.mp3](https://media.lauraerickson.com/radio/Merlin%20All%20Wizards%20Have%20Limitations.mp3) (5:46 minutes).

GAAS 90th Anniversary in the News!



Multimedia reporter/producer Kassi Filkins interviewed past and present Greater Akron Audubon Society leaders in a recent article in the non-profit, online news source, ***Signal Akron***. The article recognized the chapter's 90th Anniversary. Past Presidents Marie Morgan and Bill Osborne together with long-time member and current Treasurer Wolfgang Pelz were interviewed by Kassi at Bill's home, thanks to a tip to ***Signal Akron*** from current Board member Leigh Forman. The result was this article: [Greater Akron Audubon Society celebrates 90 years \(signalakron.org\)](https://www.signalakron.org/greater-akron-audubon-society-celebrates-90-years). Despite the chapter's longevity, many locals do not know of the chapter or its conservation efforts.

Read more about ***Signal Akron***, a non-profit, online source of local news that was launched in December 2023: [About Us - Signal Akron](https://www.signalakron.org/about-us)

Are You Familiar with NestWatch?



So, you've begun to plant native plants, especially those most beneficial to birds for the food they provide. Besides documenting the plants and pollinators that come to your yard, what's the next step? It could be monitoring any bird nests and recording observations using another participatory science project known as NestWatch. NestWatch is a monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Recording your observations via NestWatch will help scientists track nesting success, a key component to understanding bird declines.

Cornell Lab's specialized database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals. Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country. And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn firsthand about birds and create a lifelong bond with the natural world. It can also be a great family-friendly activity to do over the summer months; participants are encouraged to photograph or record video that can be uploaded to the project. And because most birds have more than one brood, the fun can last throughout the summer.

It's easy to get started. Follow the directions on the NestWatch website to become a certified NestWatcher and then download the NestWatcher App (for iOS or Android) and get started. See [NestWatch | Overview - NestWatch](#).

Top 5 Tips for Finding Birds Nesting Near You



Rufous Hummingbird by Mason Maron / Macaulay Library.

Now that migratory birds have most likely arrived at their breeding grounds, some birders enjoy looking for nests and watching them. Cornell Lab's ***All About Birds*** website provides some tips for tuning into nesting behavior and finding bird nests. These tips may help one discover nearby nests: [Top 5 Tips for Finding Birds Nesting Near You | All About Birds All About Birds](#)

**A Special Offer for New BWD Subscribers
and Black Swamp Observatory
(Hurry, it expires 5/31/24)**



Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) and BWD Magazine have teamed up to bring a special offer for new subscribers. Get a one-year subscription (6 issues) of BWD Magazine for \$21 (regularly \$26) by using the code BIGWEEK24 and for each new subscription, \$10 will be donated to BSBO. Offer good through May 31, 2024. Offer not applicable to two-year subscriptions or current subscribers. Funds raised through this offer will be used to support BSBO's migratory bird research, education, and conservation efforts. See the offer and the link to subscribe: [Email \(verticalresponse.com\)](mailto:verticalresponse.com).

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.

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Greater Akron Audubon Society

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