



## Upcoming Programs and Events

Spring migration reaches a feverish pitch on Saturday, May 13, 2023, the official International (World) Migratory Bird Day. This year's theme is "Water: Sustaining Bird Life." Clean, accessible water is vital to migratory birds—it provides necessary resting points during migration, nesting, and raising their young.



World Migratory Bird Day Official Poster Courtesy of Environment for the Americas

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## **Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Biggest Week now in Progress**

The Biggest Week in American Birding Festival runs May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup> this year. More than 90,000 people from all over the world come to northwest Ohio this time of year to experience spring migration. This year's schedule of events and festival information, along with other very useful information, can be found at the BWIAB website and in the digital edition of the free Visitor's Guide – even if you aren't registered: [VISITORS' GUIDE MAGAZINE - BWIAB \(biggestweekinamericanbirding.com\)](https://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com) Most of the keynote speakers, vendors and events take place at Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center at 1750 State Park Road #2, Oregon, OH 43616. You need not be registered to enter the lodge and peruse the vendor tables or take the nearby boardwalk trails.



### **Heron Open House**

**Thursday, May 11, 2023 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Bath Road Heronry, Bath Road**

**Located between Akron-Peninsula and Riverview Roads**



Join a Summit Metro Park naturalist to observe the nesting behaviors of the Great Blue Heron, one of Ohio's largest birds. Stop by during the open house hours and use their binoculars and spotting scopes to get an up-close look.



### **Wonderful World of Warblers**

**Saturday and Sunday, May 13 – 14, 2023 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**and**

**Saturday and Sunday, May 20 – 21, 2023 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Susan Hambley Nature Center/Brunswick Lake Park**

1473 Parschen Blvd.  
Brunswick, OH 44212



Warblers are one of the most fascinating species of birds in Northeast Ohio. They are tiny, energetic, and brightly colored but are easy to miss. Warblers fly thousands of miles during migration. Some species stay in Ohio to nest while others travel further north to Canada. Learn about the lives of warblers and enjoy crafts and other activities. All ages are welcome. Free.



### **Grow a Wild Back Yard (Virtual Program)**

**Friday, May 19, 2023 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**



Join Summit Metro Parks biologists online for a presentation highlighting the Wild Back Yards initiative as a prelude to the Native Plant Festival (see below). They'll explore the incredible world of native plants and the vital role they play in sustaining our planet's biodiversity, show how to begin transitioning your greenspace into a Wild Back Yard, and explain the benefits of invasive species removal in order to invite participation in the **Grow a Wild Back Yard** program. To join, <https://Zoom.us/join> and enter Zoom meeting ID: [854 4474 2001](https://Zoom.us/join).



### **Native Plant Festival**

**Saturday, May 20, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Monroe Falls Metro Park, Lake Area**



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, attend an educational session to better understand how to incorporate native plants into your landscaping or take a hike with a naturalist to explore how native plants can bring a bit of the wild to your own back yard. For a schedule of talks and other activities between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. see [Programs & Events Calendar | Summit Metro Parks](#) or go to Summit Metro Parks' Facebook page: [Native Plant Festival | Facebook](#) and click "See more."



### **The Mysterious Barn Owl**

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Liberty Park Nature Center**

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



Mystery and intrigue surround the elusive Barn Owl. Its spooky "scream" haunts barns and old buildings. Once found in 84 Ohio counties, it is now one of the state's threatened species. Join a naturalist to learn more about this amazing bird and the efforts to increase its Ohio populations.



### **GAAS May Program**

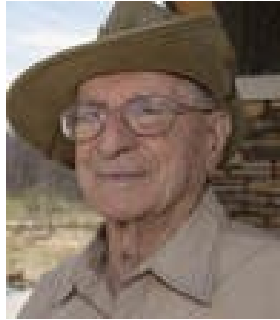
**The First Annual Bert Szabo Legacy Address:**

**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](#)



## **Bird Walks & Field Trips**

**Bird Watching: Migration Mania**

**Saturday, May 13, 2023 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Oak Hill Trailhead**

**3901 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula 44264**



Accompany Volunteer Naturalist Dwight Chasar on International Migratory Bird Day looking for spring migrants. Observe songbirds in hardwood forests and old fields as their migration comes to a frenzied peak. This 2.5-mile walk is on flat, unpaved trails. Bring binoculars.

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**Bird Nerds: Warblers**

**Saturday, May 13, 2023 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Firestone Metro Park, Tuscarawas Meadows Area**

**2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319**



The topic of May's Bird Nerd session with Summit Metro Parks is warblers. Instead of an inside presentation, the time will be spent on the trails at Firestone Metro Park. Bring your binoculars to practice identifying warblers while learning their natural history.

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**Birding with Mom**

**Sunday, May 14, 2023 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Firestone Metro Park, Tuscarawas Meadows Area**

**2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319**



Treat your mother on this special day by taking her birding along the 1.1-mile Redwing Trail with a Summit Metro Parks naturalist. Coffee and tea will be available after the hike. Don't forget your binoculars!

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## **Cuyahoga Valley National Park Annual Spring Bird Census**

**Saturday, May 20, 2023 7:30 a.m.**

**15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, OH 44141**



Be a citizen scientist! Birders of all experience levels are invited to participate in this annual spring outing, compiling vital population records for natural resource studies. Census participants will be assigned to a team and hike in small groups on unpaved trails, recording how many individuals of each species they see.

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## **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.

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### **GAAS Bird Walks**

**Saturdays at Firestone Metro Park Through May 27, 2023 7:30 a.m.**

**Tuscarawas Meadows Area**

**2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319**

or

**200 E. Warner Rd., Akron, OH 44319**



Ned DeLamatre leads walks this migratory season at Firestone Metro Park on Saturday mornings. 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.

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# News You Can Use

## Save the Date for National Audubon's Summer Climate Watch

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. 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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## Researcher Uses eBird Data to Uncover the Best Pileated Woodpecker Habitat

*Tool Could Prove Useful to Regional Consortiums such as LEAP for Biodiversity*

Source: BirdwatchingDaily.com published April 4, 2023 and University of Cincinnati

A University of Cincinnati graduate student used eight years of eBird sightings of the Pileated Woodpecker in Hamilton County, Ohio to correlate with remote sensing data “to identify corridors along rivers and creeks with abundant mature trees and dead wood that helped the birds adjust to their increasingly fragmented urban landscape. Then she created a model to identify the most critical habitat corridors, which could help park managers and government planners make better decisions about preserving or restoring the most valuable contiguous forest patches.” See the entire story here: [Researcher uses eBird data to uncover the best Pileated Woodpecker habitat - BirdWatching \(birdwatchingdaily.com\)](#). Will our elected officials utilize these tools and the results of their data analyses?

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## Free Downloadable Warbler Guide

Available from Cornell Lab of Ornithology



In exchange for your email address, Cornell Lab of Ornithology is offering free, full-color PDF 'cheat sheets' of eastern, western, and widespread warblers in the United States and Canada. [Download Free Warbler ID Cheat Sheets PDF \(allaboutbirds.org\)](https://allaboutbirds.org).

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**Drs. Doug Tallamy and Daniel Klem Join Forces**

**Safe Glass and Native Plants – Complementary**

**Source: *The Birding Community E-Bulletin*, April 2023**

<https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin>

A joint statement issued in March by Dr. Dan Klem, of the Acopian Center for Ornithology at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, and Dr. Doug Tallamy, of the University of Delaware “established a native-plant element to stress the call for installing native plants and bird-safe windows as a complementary approach.

The scientists insisted that wherever crucial native plants are planted that the installation of bird window-collision prevention systems also be installed. The pair stressed that adding native plants to a yard can create an “ecological trap” when the window element is not addressed. Unless these efforts are linked, the goal of really helping birds can fail. What is the use of attracting birds with the best native plants if they might die from impact with nearby glass windows? See the statement, along with “five key actions” that should be in place the day a native plant is planted: [Tallamy and Klem.pdf \(muhlenberg.edu\)](#).

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**Attention All K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Educators!**

**An Exciting Opportunity From**

**Cornell Lab of Ornithology K-12 Education**

**Connecting with Nature... a (Three-day) Learning Retreat (OH)**  
**June 20 – 22, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Daily**  
**Cedar Ridge Lodge, inside Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park**  
**1775 Darby Creek Dr, Galloway, OH 43119**



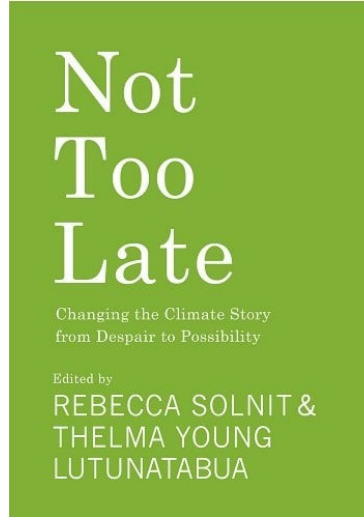
Workshop location: Cedar Ridge Lodge in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, Galloway, OH

Cornell Lab of Ornithology is excited to invite you to register for this relaxing, three-day learning retreat experience! With their team, you'll spend time outdoors, create meaningful learning artifacts, and work together to expand thinking around interdisciplinary connections. Enjoy time exploring local habitats, connecting with other educators, and gain easy-to-apply ideas and practical tips for implementation. Plus, you'll choose from either the K-2 or 3-5 version of the eBird Explorers curriculum kit, and leave ready to use these hands-on materials in your classroom and outdoors. These retreats are only being offered in three states and this one is in Ohio. Registration closes on May 14, 2023. For more details and to register, see [Connecting with Nature...a Learning Retreat \(Ohio\) – K-12 Education \(cornell.edu\)](https://www.cornell.edu/learningretreat/ohio)

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**There's Always HOPE!**

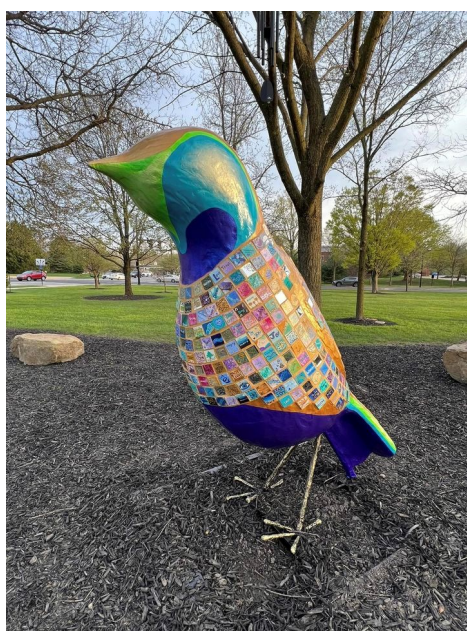
*"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something is worth doing no matter how it turns out." — Václav Havel*



With Earth Day behind us and climate change reminding us almost daily the earth will be 2.7 °C warmer by the end of the century, it's hard not to despair. But a new book, ***Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility*** is a compilation of over 20 contributors from around the world who argue that we need to reframe the possibilities and equip ourselves with the tools to move forward. Ideas, confidence, context and hope give us the fortitude to engage and move forward. Rebecca Solnit and Thelma Young Lutunatabua are co-editors of the book. Listen as Marketplace reporter Amy Scott interviews Rebecca Solnit about the book [Why hope is a powerful tool in the fight against climate change - Marketplace](#). A companion website with resources provides useful perspectives and information to help guide people from despair to possibilities: [Not Too Late \(nottoolateclimate.com\)](http://nottoolateclimate.com)



**Door 2 Art Studio in Hudson, Ohio Launches BIRDSONG  
As a Way to Engage Gentler Public Discourse!**



A local art studio in Hudson, Ohio is making news as it opened its first public art installation with the help of community artists and members on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Throughout the downtown green area, 150 bird sculptures created by more than 100 artists hang from trees with QR codes to take them to a landing page that will tell more about the project and the artists who created them. A large bird sculpture and a large birdhouse decorated in tiles with positive messages by community members are also on display during the next year. The idea was conceived by Door 2 Art Studio's founder and director Adriana Caso after becoming distressed about how others were using social media and the ways people interact in the digital age. At the same time she began to think about birds and how they're often heard before being seen and how they sing for different reasons. Her separate ideas meshed to create the vision for the Birdsong project: "The vision is about discovering wonder in the way birds sing their own songs for different reasons, but together they create an inspiring sound of unity. Our lives make a sound as well – what sound will they make? We [the project] aim to foster reflection and hope, spark conversation, and enjoy community centered around this narrative of gentle beauty." Read more about her narrative and the creative ideas behind the project: [Birdsong Narrarive | Door2art](#) Follow the project on **Facebook**: [Door 2 Art Studio | Hudson OH | Facebook](#) and **Instagram** @door2art to get updates on fresh ways to interact with Birdsong throughout the seasons! Or visit their website for more detail about the project and a map showing the path along which the birds are located: [Birdsong | Door 2 Art](#).

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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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](#)

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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