



Upcoming Programs and Events

Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day 2022 (Via Zoom)

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Join Audubon for a fascinating conversation about migratory birds, the hazards they face along the way, and the actions National Audubon is taking to help ensure safe passage along their journeys. Hosted by National Audubon Society's Bird-Friendly Communities team, the presentation and panel discussion will explore bird migration, featuring innovative visualizations developed by Audubon's Migratory Bird Initiative, and will highlight hemispheric connections through Audubon Americas. We'll dive into hazards and solutions as we talk with Audubon staff and chapter leaders across the country - and beyond our borders- implementing Lights Out and bird-safe programs aimed at reducing collisions and light pollution. The webinar will be presented in English with Spanish translation. To Register: [Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day 2022 | National Audubon Society](#)



Photo: Magnolia Warbler: Owen Deutsch/Audubon Photography Awards

Dim the Lights for Birds at Night (via Zoom)

Friday, May 13, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Join Environment for the Americas, the group that promotes World Migratory Bird Day, as **What if Night?** author Paul Boagard reads his book, and illustrator Sarah Holden guides an art activity about dark skies. This event is ideal for schools, families, and students ages 4 – 8. This is one of several online activities being held throughout the day.

To Register: [Meeting Registration – Zoom](#)



Movie Night: The Big Year

Friday, May 13, 2022 8:30 – 11 p.m.

Monroe Falls Metro Park, Lake Area

521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls, OH 44262

Join Summit Metro Parks for a free showing of the 2011 hit romantic comedy and iconic birder's movie, **The Big Year** (rated PG) at the outdoor theater. Please bring your own blankets and chairs.

Attracting Birds with Native Vines and Shrubs

Saturday, May 14, 2022 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Liberty Park Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087

Join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist to learn what shrubs or vines to plant that will attract birds to your back yard year-round. Learn what not to plant in your landscape and why.

**Going for the Gold! 30 years of Prothonotary Warbler Husbandry (via Zoom) (Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland *Third Thursday Series*)
Thursday, May 19, 2022 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

For 30 years, Dan Best has been providing artificial nest cavities to increase nesting success of Prothonotary Warblers (aka, Golden Swamp Warbler) on the Upper Cuyahoga River in Geauga County. Join ASGC as Dan reports on nesting success and the many lessons learned about competition from other species, predation and flood loss avoidance. For the last 11 years Rachel McKinney, a Science, Math and Environmental Education teacher, has assisted him with the many facets of the project, including installing the cavities in spring, banding adult and hatchling birds in summer, data collection and removing cavities in fall. Registration is required and you will receive a confirmation email with a link to join: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

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.

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.



Photo: Common Yellowthroat – Bob Burns

Friday, May 13, 2022 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Cascade Valley Metro Park/Valley View Area

1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313

Greater Akron Audubon Society joins with Summit Metro Parks to spot warblers and other neotropical migrants along the Cuyahoga River during peak migration – one day before Global Big Day! Listen for bird songs as well as tips from a naturalist for how we can support the birds during their epic journeys north. Let's turn out to share our joy of birds with others as we take in the sights and sounds in our newest metro park. And don't forget to bring your sense of humor and binoculars!



Photo: Palm Warbler – Bob Burns

Firestone Fridays are Back!
Fridays Through May 27, 2022 7:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Firestone Metro Park, Tuscarawas Meadows Area
2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319

Firestone Metro Park offers notoriously good birding during spring migration because of its many habitats and proximity to the feeder race and Tuscarawas River. Think in terms of a gathering of friends who enjoy birding together. There are always several very good birders present and we all help one another find and identify species. Meet at the bridge nearest the Tuscarawas Meadows parking lot. The first leg of the walk is always along the feeder race and we walk slowly, so it is easy for late arrivals to find us. Birders can arrive and leave at any time, and the trails are well groomed (but can be wet and muddy) and flat.

Bring binoculars and birding geniality. For any questions about the walk, contact Ned DeLamatre at ndelamatre@gmail.com. [Edit. Note: This item was inadvertently omitted from our last eNews. The walks began April 29th. We regret the error.]

World Migratory Bird Day is Saturday May 14th!



Photo: Black and White Warbler – Bob Burns

Saturday, May 14, 2022 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Cuyahoga Valley National Park: Oak Hill Trailhead
3901 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula 44264

Join Volunteer Naturalist Dwight Chasar on **International Migratory Bird Day** for *Migration Mania!* 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. Please bring binoculars.



Red-bellied Woodpecker Photo: Bob Burns

Sunday, May 15, 2022 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Liberty Park, Pond Brook Conservation Area
3973 East Aurora Rd. Twinsburg, OH 44087

New and experienced birders can join a naturalist in search of birds – from warblers to waterfowl on this spring bird walk near the peak of migration. Binoculars are recommended; some will be available to borrow.

Note: If you're in search of additional guided bird walks (and other bird-related programs not shown here) to our north, please check out the Northeast Ohio Regional Bird Calendar hosted by the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio here: [CALENDAR \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org).

On Exhibit:

Cabinets of Curiosity

Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology,
located at The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio
73 South College Street, Akron, OH, 44325-4302
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 1:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday and Monday: Closed



Photo: LDRoketenetz

And at

**Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High Street, Akron, OH 44326
Special Collections Display Case, 2nd Floor
Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**



University of Akron students recently had the opportunity to take an “unclass,” an interdisciplinary, hands-on course designed to help to clean, restore and display neglected birds from the century-old Thomas Rhodes Collection.

Rhodes came to Ohio as a 7-year-old boy from England in 1833 and became a successful businessman and landowner in Medina and Summit Counties. He and his wife, Sarah,

travelled extensively and collected bird specimens from around the United States and Central and South America in the latter 19th century (before the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918). The taxidermied collection of over 500 birds was originally displayed at their home but was later bequeathed to Buchtel College (now the University of Akron) in 1904. For over a century, the collection remained in closets and had been rescued from two fires.

The *Cummins Center for the History of Psychology* joined with the *UA Department of Biology* and the *UA School of Education* to create the preservation class, titled ***A Natural History Mystery***, during which 66 of the specimens were cleaned and re-colored using taxidermy techniques to make them come back to life for the exhibit. Students worked hard to remove dust and soot and create the exhibits. The restored specimens are currently on display at the Cummins Center and at the downtown location of the Akron-Summit Library and are now available for public viewing and study in the online archives: [UA Museum of Zoology - University of Akron Digital Collections \(uakron.edu\)](https://uakron.edu/museum/zooology). Whether you're a student, researcher, teacher, birder, or simply curious, you might find the archive to be useful or interesting. (Yes, that's an Ivory-billed Woodpecker, that was also recently professionally restored.)

Both exhibits will remain on exhibit until August 27, 2022.

Dr. Lara Roketenetz, field station manager of the *Martin Center for Field Studies and Environmental Education* at Bath Nature Preserve, was instrumental in making the course a reality and arranging for the exhibits. By her side, making everything happen behind the scenes this semester, has been Americorps Volunteer Isabel Neeley.

[Free parking for the Cummins Center is available in the parking lot adjacent to the building. Visitors can also park in Lot 30 at the corner of College and Market streets.

Metered parking is available along South College Street.]

Other News You Can Use



An Action Alert from ABC's Steve Holmer, Vice President of Policy:

A recent opinion published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could signal upcoming approvals for bird-killing neonicotinoid pesticides ("neonics"), possibly for the next 15 years. In early March, the EPA released a document stating that the harmful

effects of malathion, one of the pesticides being evaluated, would be negated with minor measures. But malathion poses a threat to 97 percent of species listed under the Endangered Species Act, including Kirtland's Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. The agency is in the process of renewing the registration for a number of dangerous pesticides and is off to a concerning start. This approach could foreshadow the decision for three neonicotinoids in fall 2022. Once made, these decisions will shape how the pesticides are used for the next 15 years.

Study after study has shown alarming declines of insect pollinators, like bumblebees and butterflies. Pesticide use is a strong contributor to these declines. One study published last year found that exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides caused declines in hummingbirds' metabolism, a serious concern for these energy-intensive birds. Other birds are at risk as well: Studies have also shown that a single seed treated with neonicotinoids can kill songbirds. And neonics have been found to have other worrisome impacts, from reducing birds' ability to migrate to diminishing overall bird diversity in areas where neonics are used.

The ***Saving America's Pollinators Act*** (H.R. 4079) would cancel the registration of all neonicotinoids and establish a Pollinator Protection Board. Your voice is critical to ensure that this bill crosses the finish line: [Speak Up Against Bird-Killing Pesticides \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org)

Born Wild, Stay Wild: Please Do Not Feed the Wildlife

(From Ohio Department of Natural Resources)

People think that feeding wild animals is harmless, but unfortunately providing human food can cause unforeseen harm and lead to potentially dangerous learned behaviors. Often, the babies you see will be unattended by a parent. Unless something seems amiss, keep your distance and leave them alone. Human intervention is always a wild animal's LAST hope for survival, NEVER its best hope. See ODNR's web page for what to know and what to do if you should encounter unattended young wildlife: ohiodnr.gov/staywild



I AM NOT A PET.



**GOOD INTENTIONS CAN HURT.
LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD.**

Currently on National Audubon's Website: Migration!

Currently on National Audubon's website is an artist's rendering of several featured species and their migration paths and interesting facts. Titled ***The Many Styles of Bird Migration Are More Varied Than You Think***, it's a fun scroll through to learn some amazing feats of migration (by Lauren Leffer; Illustrations by Liz Wahid). Below the graphic diorama are more interesting articles that have appeared in Audubon Magazine or were featured in science or other Audubon news stories. See it here: [The Many Styles of Bird Migration Are More Varied Than You Think | Audubon](#)

GAAS Participates in SPIN with STEM Day!



On Saturday, April 30, 2022, Greater Akron Audubon participated in a fun and educational STEM event at the University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve. Spring into Nature (**SPIN**) with STEM was designed for students in the 2nd through 6th grades in the Revere School District. Sixteen community organizations came together to support the effort that was created and organized by Dr. Lara Roketenetz with the help of her Americorp intern Isabel Neeley. GAAS Board Members assisted the students with our table's activity, folding an origami Passenger Pigeon. Student and adult handouts were created with links to our website based on the theme of ***How to Help Birds in our Home Spaces*** ([Spring Into Nature - 2022 - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#)) The chapter also provided Cornell Lab of Ornithology's ***BirdSleuth Explorer's Guidebook***, a 12-page guide to using senses and scientific observation skills to explore nature, birds and their habitats. The ***Bird Checklist for Bath Nature Preserve*** was also updated and handed out

for inclusion in each student's folder. With parents, students, family members and participants, the event drew about 200 people on a beautiful spring day.

Did you know?

(The following paragraphs are excerpts from an article penned by Akron zookeeper Mallory Ballmert and was provided by Shane Good, Senior Director of Animal Care)

The Akron Zoo is home to an aviary that hosts 27 North American species of birds that are native to Ohio – and includes passerines, waterfowl and gamebirds. The Mike and Mary Stark Grizzly Ridge area of the zoo highlights North America's native species including grizzly bears, North American river otters, red wolves, coyotes, and one of American Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) largest North American songbird aviaries, which was established in 2013.

Most of the aviary's residents are wild-hatched birds that are rehabilitated after injury in the wild, and some are captive-hatched from other zoological facilities. Due to Akron Zoo's partnerships with Ohio Lights Out (Lights Out Cleveland and Lights Out Akron-Canton) and licensed-wildlife rehabilitators, the Akron Zoo can provide homes for many injured and rehabilitated non-releasable birds that are found in Northeast Ohio and the surrounding region. Ohio Lights Out is a program run by the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) that "is working to prevent bird collisions [with buildings]." A study (Loss, Will, Loss, & Marra, 2014) estimates that over one billion birds die from building collisions in the United States annually, and this is most common during spring and fall migration. Most of these birds come to the Akron Zoo with wing injuries or other types of physical traumas suffered from a window collision. After their quarantine period, they are flight-tested to ensure they can navigate the terrain of the aviary and perch and fly appropriately. By allowing these birds to have a second chance in the aviary, guests can gain an appreciation for native birds and learn about conservation actions they can take to help local wildlife. The Akron Zoo is a partner of OBCI and financially supports OBCI's Lights Out programs through the Akron Zoo Conservation Fund.

The Akron Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and is a founding partner of the AZA's SAFE-North American Songbird Program. SAFE (Saving Animals from Extinction) is a program that leverages the conservation efforts of the AZA's entire membership, which includes 238 accredited zoos and aquariums. Primary goals of the SAFE-North American Songbird Program include:

- Addressing the effects of free-roaming domestic cats on songbird populations
 - Preventing bird window collisions
 - Addressing the impacts of the illegal wildlife trade on North American songbirds
 - Prevention of habitat loss and the effects of non-native species on North American
-

songbirds

- Increasing the awareness of the effects of environmental contaminants on North American songbird populations.

North American songbirds have their own conservation message to share. While most people think of our North American songbirds as common, the truth is that these populations have declined at an alarming rate. The biodiversity crisis has come to our own backyards. According to the American Bird Conservancy, "In less than a single human lifetime, 2.9 billion breeding adult birds have been lost from the United States and Canada, across every ecosystem and including some familiar bird species." To put it another way, 25% of our North American songbirds have vanished from our landscape since the 1970s. Our hope is that the Akron Zoo's North American Songbird Aviary will inspire conservation actions that prevent these beautiful species from permanently disappearing from our own backyards.

APA Citation: Loss, S. R., Will, T., Loss, S. S., & Marra, P. P. (2014). Bird-building collisions in the United States: Estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability. *The Condor*, 116(1), 8-23. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/90008043>

Coming Up!

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 some plants! These can be cuttings from plants in your yard or freshly grown from seed. Plants should be labeled by name and contained in pots. Vegetables and herbs are preferred, but all plants are welcome (perhaps some volunteer Common Blue Violets or Wild Geraniums, or Wild Ginger anyone?!) All are encouraged to attend, even without plants to share.

Black Birders Week May 29 – June 4, 2022
2022 Theme: Soaring to Greater Heights

Each day will focus on a new topic and fun activities. More info coming 5/22/22

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.

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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