



Upcoming Programs and Events

Birds of the Seasons:

Bird Carvings and Digital Serigraphs

By Master Carver Tom Baldwin

Ongoing Now through June 30, 2023


Fridays 12:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Box Gallery/Artists of Rubber City

3rd Floor Summit Artspace

140 E. Market St., Akron, OH 44308




BIRDS of the Seasons
JUNE 9 - JUNE 30
BY TOM BALDWIN

BIRD CARVINGS & DIGITAL SERIGRAPHS

June 9 to June 30, 2023
 Fridays noon - 7PM
 Saturdays noon - 5 PM

Meet-the-Artist Opening
 Friday, June 9, 2023,
 5:00 to 9:00 pm



Tom has personally invited Akron Audubon Society members and fellow bird carvers to his current show. Birds of the seasons of Ohio are displayed with favorite local public park locations in this multi-media art presentation. Mixing traditional wood carving with modern digital artwork, Tom presents a colorful exhibit of our beautiful birds in their natural places. Free parking and admittance.



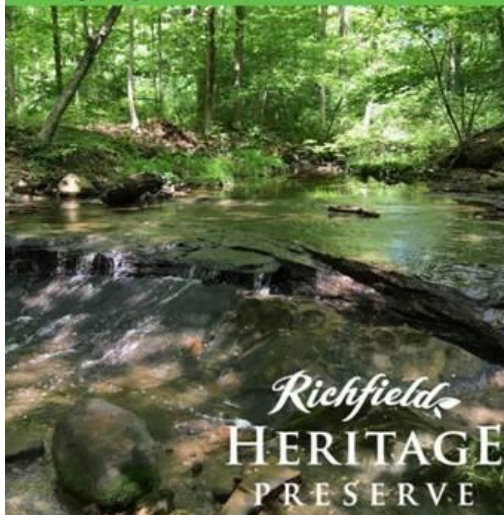
Wet & Wild Nature Hike with Judy Semroc
Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Richfield Heritage Preserve Parking Lot
4374 Broadview Rd, Richfield, OH 44286

Heritage High Points

Richfield Heritage Preserve

at the highest point in Summit County

Spring/Summer 2023 Brochure



This hike will be focused on searching for creatures that live in the water, wetlands & streams. Our investigations will take us "below the water's surface" while we net and identify things that are tied to water areas based on their various life cycles. Our searches will primarily focus on the various water features within the Preserve. \$10 per person. To register for this and other programs at Richfield Heritage Preserve, please use the Richfield Joint Recreation District website that uses an online registration system called "recdesk"; you will first need to create an account in order to Log in and register and pay the associated fee: [Program: Wet & Wild Nature Hike \(recdesk.com\)](#).

Judy has partnered with Richfield Heritage Preserve to do a series of hikes in the field on a wide range of topics. See the listing of numerous programs to be held at the Preserve with other naturalists and instructors on a wide range of topics ranging from camping to nature journaling to photography to a music fest and poker run. The listings are not in date order, so be sure to check them all out and be sure to click on the program name for detailed descriptions of the events: [Programs \(recdesk.com\)](#). Or, see the Preserve's 20-page online brochure: [spr_sum_2023_brochure_complete.pdf \(richfieldheritagepreserve.com\)](#).

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**Akron Environmental Justice Coalition**

**Community Meetings**

The Akron Environmental Justice Coalition is holding community meetings with Akron citizens seeking their concerns, ideas, and solutions to help create sustainable, equitable, and healthy Akron neighborhoods and community. Our first community meeting was held May 15 at The Rialto Theatre in Kenmore where we heard from nearly two dozen citizens. Our future meetings will be held around the city so citizens from all of Akron's Wards can participate. Plan to attend one or more community meetings to share your concerns, ideas, and solutions as we work together to create an environmentally just community. These meetings are held at Akron Summit County Public Library branches and are free and open to the public.

\*\*GAAS enews note: Three of the scheduled meetings were held between our last enews and current issue. The remaining two community meetings are shown below:

- **June 13 at the Odom Blvd. Library**, 600 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, OH 44307 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **June 21 at the Ellet Library**, 2470 E. Market St., Akron, OH 44312 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Unable to attend a community meeting? You may wish to complete the **Akron Green Space and Environmental Issues Survey**: [Akron Green Space and Environmental Issues Survey \(google.com\)](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciYvGNNPu4zuM9oy-cimKx2x5h7ld6-fjJkasrMzDXF45tLw/viewform)

If the above link does not work for you, copy and paste the following link in your browser to go to the survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciYvGNNPu4zuM9oy-cimKx2x5h7ld6-fjJkasrMzDXF45tLw/viewform>

The Akron Environmental Justice Coalition is comprised of the following organizations: The Big Love Network, Sierra Club-Akron, Greater Akron Audubon Society, Community Life Collaborative, Blu Jazz Masterclass Foundation, LEAD for Pollinators, Preserve the Valley, and Save White Pond. For more information contact LEAD for Pollinators:

[info@leadforpollinators.org](mailto:info@leadforpollinators.org) Learn more about the work of Coalition members:

[Home - Lead For Pollinators](#)

[About – The Big Love Network](#)

[Sierra Club – Portage Trail Group | Explore, Enjoy & Protect the Planet \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[Greater Akron Audubon Society - Home](#)

[Community Life Collaborative | Building Awareness For Social & Environmental Change](#)

[BLU Jazz+ | Bringing live jazz back to Akron. \(blujazzakron.com\)](#)

[HOME | Preserve the Valley](#)

[Save White Pond | Facebook](#)

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**Free Educator Workshop:**

**Exploring the Ecology of Lyme Disease**

**June 14 – 15, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**The Wilderness Center**

**9877 Alabama Ave. SW, Wilmot, OH 44689**



Black-legged Tick

Kip Brady instructs this workshop for high school life science teachers and environmental educators. The two-day workshop will guide participants through the process of tick collection and analysis for *B. burgdorferi* in black-legged ticks, examination of tick habitat associations, and development of strategies to engage their high school students in studying Lyme Disease so that reliable data can be used to inform the prevalence of this pathogen in Ohio ticks. Use of technology to extract, amplify and evaluate DNA samples can connect students with core concepts of biology – ecology, genetics and evolution – while investigating a real-world relevant public health challenge.

Participants will earn 13 contact hours of professional development (one hour of graduate credit will also be available for a fee). For more information or to register, see [Educator Workshop: Exploring the Ecology of Lyme Disease – The Wilderness Center](#)

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## Conservancy for CVNP: Low Power Happy Hour

### Bees, Bugs, and Butterflies

Featuring Photographers Danae Wolfe and Anthony Rodgers

Location to be given upon Registration

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

## Speakers



Danae Wolfe  
of Chasing Bugs



Anthony Rodgers

Courtesy of Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Low Power Happy Hour features local professionals who work in and around the topic of sustainability combined with acoustic music. Celebrate Ohio Pollinators Week with a discussion of the national park's new traveling exhibit, ***Bees, Bugs, and Butterflies: Pollinating Along the Cuyahoga***. Featured photographers Danae Wolfe of *Chasing Bugs* and Anthony Rodgers will talk about how they became interested in insect diversity and why pollinators are important. Find out how you can get involved by planting native wildflowers and becoming a citizen scientist. Unplugged music provided by Morgan Mecaskey, an indie/folk singer-songwriter and guitarist. Free for Conservancy members; \$10 for general public. For more details or to register: [Conservancy for CVNP: Low Power Happy Hour \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/cvnp/learn/conservancy-for-cvnp-low-power-happy-hour)



Image from Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

View the travelling exhibit ***Bees, Bugs, and Butterflies: Pollinating Along the Cuyahoga*** each Friday, Saturday and Sunday through August 20, 2023, 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at Boston Trailhead, 1508 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. (Accessible parking only at 1565 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula, OH 44264.) Other photographers included in the exhibit include Jerry Cannon, Jim Roetzel, Denny Reiser and Jeffrey Gibson.

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**Final GAAS Program of the Season:**

**UA Field Station: Bringing Birds, Nature and People Together**

**Dr. Lara Roketenetz**

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023 7:00 p.m.**

**The University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve**

**4240 Ira Rd., Akron, OH 44333**



Join Dr. Lara Roketenetz, Director of The Martin Center for Field Studies and Environmental Education at Bath Nature Preserve for a discussion on the importance of ornithological outreach for target audiences. Some of the varied projects that focus on birds at the Field Station include the 2021 publishing of the Bath Bird Blitz Book (funded by Bath Community Fund), the implementation of a Chimney Swift tower (designed with local artists Margarita Benitez and Markus Vogl and funded in part by Greater Akron Audubon Society), bird-themed nature walks, K – 8 curriculum, and a college-level class focused on the investigation of an antique, taxidermy bird collection donated to the University in the early 1900s (a natural history mystery!).

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**Scott Weidensaul (Virtual Program)**

**Wednesday, June 28, 2023 7:30 p.m.**



FaCT-Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future  
[www.factohio.org](http://www.factohio.org)

*-----Distinguished Speaker Series-----*

As part of their speaker series, FaCT (Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future) Ohio is hosting Scott Weidensaul, who will be speaking on his book, ***A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds***. Register in advance for this event:

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#). Find upcoming speaker events from FaCT Ohio here:

[Distinguished Speaker Series — FaCT Ohio](#)

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**Medina County Metro Parks**

**Ongoing Native Plant Sale**

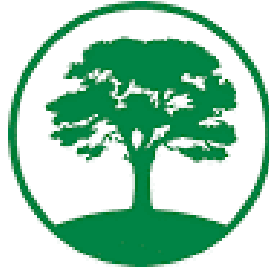
**Through June 25, 2023**

**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. Sale will continue on July 8 – 9<sup>th</sup> and July 15 – 16<sup>th</sup>. Because of the limited quantities supplied by the grower, please call ahead to make sure the sale has not been cancelled before attending: [\(330\) 722-9364](tel:3307229364) or [\(844\) 722-9364](tel:8447229364).



## **Bird Walks & Field Trips**

**Summer Grassland Birds: Bobolinks and Henslow's Sparrows**

**with Leigh Casal, Northeast Regional Director, OOS**

**Saturday, June 17, 2023 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Bath Nature Preserve**



Join Leigh, Northeast Regional Director with Ohio Ornithological Society, at Bath Nature Preserve for Summer Grassland Birds. Target species include Henslow's Sparrows, Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks and many more. Expect to walk around 2 miles on mostly flat terrain, with a few hills. Free, but registration is suggested by emailing [leigh.casal@ohiobirds.org](mailto:leigh.casal@ohiobirds.org) so that directions and parking details can be sent.



## Cuyahoga Valley National Park

### Bird Walk

Saturday, June 24, 2023 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Ledges Shelter Parking Lot

405 Truxell Road, Peninsula, OH 44264



Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk along the 2.2-mile unpaved, rocky Ledges Trail searching for nesting northern specialties like the winter wren, Acadian flycatcher, and blue-headed vireo.



## News You Can Use

**Big News from Preserve the Valley about Theiss Woods!**



Poster by student Madelyn S.

**You did it, *Preserve the Valley* followers and friends!**

*Preserve the Valley* is thrilled to announce that the City of Akron has notified them that **100% of the city-owned land known as Theiss Woods will be preserved and not developed!** The battle to save the 45 acres of Theiss Woods began 2 1/2 years ago in the midst of the pandemic. It started with a handful of concerned citizens and grew into a movement that engaged thousands of people from Akron and the surrounding area. We applaud *Preserve the Valley* for their organizing efforts and Akron officials for this decision; this is a major victory for residents of Akron, the Valley and the flora and fauna of Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Summit Metro Parks.

Local and national environmental groups (including Greater Akron Audubon Society) wrote letters of support for saving the property, and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy submitted a proposal to purchase the land for conservation. More than 17,000 people from around the country shared and signed the *Save Theiss Woods* petition on Change.org. Hundreds of Akronites left phone messages, public comments, and emails for Akron officials asking that the city-owned property be conserved. Area schoolchildren created beautiful *Save Theiss Woods* posters (the one above was created by Madelyn S.). Learn more about Theiss Woods [here](#).

It is estimated that the mature forest and wetlands on the property provide ecological services that intercept more than 6 million gallons of rainwater and 1.6 tons of air pollutants annually. The property is located near national and county park lands that support numerous endangered plants and animals. The conservation of this parcel will continue to contribute to the health of our region's ecosystems.

Read the full announcement here: [Big News! Theiss Woods \(preservethevalley.com\)](http://preservethevalley.com)

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**Go Birding with the *New York Times*!**

This summer, the *New York Times* is inviting readers around the world to participate in a science project in collaboration with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. By gathering observations about the birds around us, filling in data gaps and giving researchers a clearer picture of biodiversity in places that birders frequent less, you'll help inform decisions about the conservation and study of birds. The project will run from now to September and new and experienced birders are welcome to participate using Merlin or eBird. For details and to sign up, see [Go Birding With The Times This Summer - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](http://nytimes.com).

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## Ohio Division of Wildlife Photo Contest

Deadline for Submissions is Friday, June 16, 2023

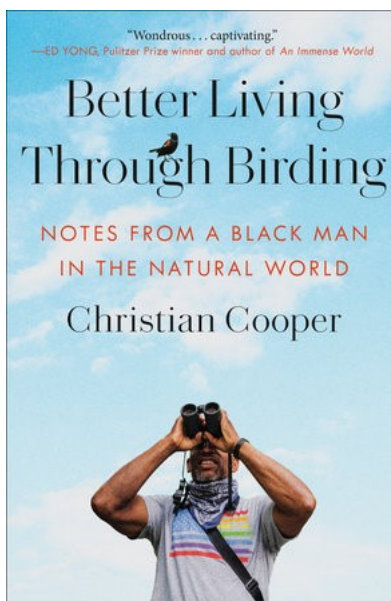


The Ohio Division of Wildlife is seeking photos that display the wonderful wildlife diversity of the state for the first annual wildlife photo contest! All photos should be of native Ohio species and taken within the state. Images can be recent or from your archives but must be submitted by the original photographer. The contest is open to Ohio residents of all ages. All participants are reminded to use ethical photography practices and limit the use of Photoshop or other editing software.

Six categories are available for submissions, including Wildlife Watching, Birds & Birding, Wildlife in Habitat and Wildlife...Gone Wild! See all categories here: [Wildlife Photography Contest | Ohio Department of Natural Resources \(ohiodnr.gov\)](#). Winners of each category will be displayed at the Natural Resources Park during the Ohio State Fair. The best-in-show image will be featured in *Wild Ohio Magazine*. Enter the contest: [Ohio Division of Wildlife Photo Contest \(arcgis.com\)](#).

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A Shoutout to Christian Cooper!



Penguin Random House Image

June 2023 is a momentous month for the openly gay, Black birder who rose to public acclaim as a result of the racially motivated Central Park incident on May 25, 2020. What better way to recognize the end of Black Birders Week, **Pride Month** and **Juneteenth**! His new book, ***Better Living Through Birding: NOTES FROM A BLACK MAN IN THE NATURAL WORLD*** is due out on Tuesday, June 13th and his new six-part series, ***Extraordinary Birder with Christian Cooper*** premieres on Wednesday, June 21st on National Geographic Wild. Part memoir, travelogue, and a primer on the art of birding, the book has drawn praise from the likes of Ed Yong, Jennifer Ackerman and Noah Strycker. An adapted excerpt, *Three Years After a Fateful Day in Central Park, Birding Continues to Change My Life*, recently appeared in the New York Times [May 26, 2023] as a captivating Opinion piece [Opinion | Three Years After a Fateful Day in Central Park, Birding Continues to Change My Life - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/26/opinion/birding-continues-to-change-my-life.html).

The book: [Better Living Through Birding by Christian Cooper: PenguinRandomHouse.com: Books](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/1000000000/better-living-through-birding-by-christian-cooper/)

The TV Series: [Extraordinary Birder with Christian Cooper - National Geographic for everyone in everywhere \(natgeotv.com\)](https://www.natgeotv.com/extraordinary-birder-with-christian-cooper/)

Nature Quests for Families

From K—12 Education at The Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

Looking for fun summer activities for your kids? Look no further than the Lab's [Nature Quests](#) where you will find both indoor and outdoor adventures. Your kids will continue to learn over the summer while having fun!

National Audubon Unveils Five-year Strategic Plan



Migrating Sandhill Cranes at wetland stopover: Photo: Rick Derevan/Audubon Photography Awards

A blueprint to move forward with National Audubon Society's mission to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow was revealed to chapter leaders on May 25, 2023. Appreciating the fact that birds have the ability to unite people across political and ideological divides, the plan positions the organization to maximize its impact at this critical moment for birds and the planet and is driven by three strategic forces: a hemispheric approach to bird conservation; climate change; and equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB). It follows the science, embraces non-partisanship, and pairs advocacy with diplomacy to influence decision makers and views local chapters as hubs for connecting individuals and communities to birds and their vast habitats across hemispheres. Recognizing that no single organization can do it alone, National Audubon will either lead, work arm-in-arm with partners, or support others in leading the way. Using five conservation milestones, with metrics to match, the focus will be on the collective health of birds – because what's good for birds is good for the earth and people. Habitat conservation, climate action in the form of renewable energy, public policy, community building and workplace excellence are the keystones for the first five-year operating plan:

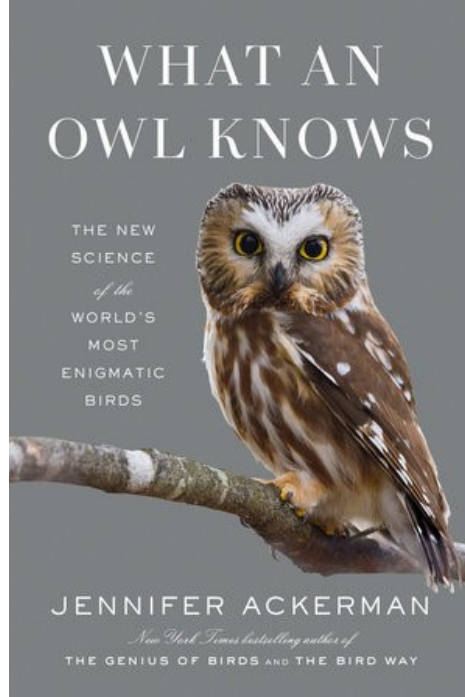
[Flight Plan - Strategic Plan Overview.pdf](#) | [Powered by Box](#)

Several webinars over the coming weeks and months will focus on each of these milestones and will feature presentations and break-out discussions. The first of these virtual meetings will look at habitat conservation and will be held **Tuesday, June 13th at 7:00 p.m.** We invite anyone interested in participating in these sessions on behalf of our chapter to reach out to info@akronaudubon.org for more information and registration details.

New Book Release from Jennifer Ackerman

What an Owl Knows

Tuesday, June 13, 2023



Penguin Random House Image

Ackerman began her research for her newest bird book during the pandemic and interviewed scientists and joined them in the field to explore how researchers are using modern technology and tools to discover how owls communicate, hunt, court, mate, raise their young, and move about from season to season. We now know that the hoots, squawks, and chitters of owls follow sophisticated and complex rules, allowing them to express not just their needs and desires but their individuality and identity. Owls duet. They migrate. They hoard their prey. Some live in underground burrows; some roost in large groups; some dine on black widows and scorpions. She combines her own field observations about owls with recent findings on the biology, behavior, and conservation of owls to engage readers with new insights into their brains and behavior.

Watch for Jennifer to appear on **CBS Sunday Morning** on **June 18th**.

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### **Apply Today for Funding of Classroom FeederWatch!**

Thanks to a generous gift from the family of FeederWatch participant John Waud, in honor of his late wife Doris Waud (who helped create Classroom FeederWatch), fifty schools will be selected to join The Cornell Lab's Classroom FeederWatch this upcoming season without paying a participant fee. Applications for the 2023-2024 season are now open. If you are a teacher and would like to apply, please [fill out this form](#) by **Friday, June 16, 2023**. And if you aren't chosen, please know that educators can download a *FeederWatch Classroom Guide*, created by The Cornell Lab's K-12 Education team, that helps educators engage their students in citizen science by providing the necessary tools and

skills to help monitor bird communities in the U.S. and Canada. This 17-page guide can be downloaded for free and provides step-by-step instructions on how to participate in Project FeederWatch, six fun activities to support classroom learning, along with additional tools and teaching tips. [Download the FeederWatch Classroom Guide here](#), or [visit the K-12 Education website here](#) to check out the supplemental and electronic resources for the guide.

Project FeederWatch is a November – April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. You don't even need a feeder! All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water, or food that attracts birds.

Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants and has been sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited since 2016.

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**From The Washington Post May 18, 2023**

### **Why birds and their songs are good for our mental health**

Birds are a way to connect with nature, which is associated with better body and brain health, research shows



Illustrations by George Wylesol for The Washington Post

Neuroscientist turned science journalist Richard Sima penned this interesting article that makes many mental health claims about birding and being in nature: Being around birds is associated with better mental health; Listening to birdsongs alleviates feelings of anxiety and paranoia; Why nature and birds may benefit us; and How to get the most out of birds are topics he addresses along with recordings of a few distinct bird songs. Read about what studies are revealing about the connection between birding and bird song to mental health [Why birds and their songs are good for our mental health - Washington Post](#).

\*Audio recordings of individual birds from eBird and of grouped songs from Xeno-canto Foundation and Naturalis Biodiversity Center. Audio editing by Ariel Plotnick. Illustrations



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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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](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 *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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