



Upcoming Programs and Events

48th Annual GAAS Summer Bird Census of Summit County, Ohio

Ongoing: June 10 – 19, 2022



Rose-breasted Grosbeak Photo: Bob Burns

Each year, since 1975, chapter members and others have conducted a census of the breeding birds in Summit County, Ohio. Participants are assigned coverage areas in any of 30 defined areas as shown on territory maps on the chapter's website: [Summer Census Territories - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). Currently, Area #25 does not have a leader and is in need of help; the bounds are roughly in the Mogadore area, Gilchrist and Skelton Roads. Having an extra set of eyes to find birds helps make the count more accurate and several areas could use some more help in counting species and their numbers. The field guidelines and bird checklist are found here: [summercensus2022-info-checklist.pdf \(akronaudubon.org\)](#). The compiled results are also sent to the *Ohio Cardinal* and the *Cleveland Bird*

Calendar and are archived on the Greater Akron Audubon Society's website.

This is Doug and Michelle Vogus's ninth year of coordinating the census and it may well be their last – as they may be leaving our area soon. Doug previously coordinated this effort with Ann Chasar from 2000 through 2013. That's 23 years of Doug's tireless efforts of time and analysis and write-ups. That's a heck of a track record, Doug! We thank you for all of your unsung dedication to this continuing undertaking. If you have any questions about the census or would like to offer to help or to add your yard list to the count during the 10-day period, please get in touch with Doug at 330-352-2355 or vogeye@gmail.com for more information.

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**Junior Ranger Program: All About Owls  
Wednesday, June 15, 2022 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park (location to be emailed upon  
registering)**

Note: This program is recommended for ages 7 – 12 and children must be accompanied by an adult to attend. Join a ranger to learn about owls' nocturnal habits. Dissect an owl pellet to discover their favorite foods. Register on Eventbrite here: [Junior Ranger: All About Owls Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

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**18th Annual Buckeye Martifest
Sunday, June 26, 2022 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
North Reservoir Boat Launch Ramp
803 State Mill Rd., Akron, OH 44319
(GAAS will have a table at this event)**

How can I get involved?

Free
Community
Event

Help
Feed the
Martins
Sundays
@ 2p

18th Annual
Buckeye Martinfest
SUNDAY June 26, 2022
1-4 pm

North Reservoir Boat Launch Ramp
803 State Mill Road

Learn all about what makes Purple
Martins so special and why they are
important to our Lake community

- Feed the Martins
- Hold and see the birds banded
- See the babies in their nests
- Information on Twilight Boat Rides
- Visit booths, play games, make crafts and more...

Contact: Kay Lukac, President
Info@portagelakespurplemartins.com
(330) 283.5771



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## GAAS Final Program of Year!



**Larry Hunter, Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association  
With Optional Birder's Swap Meet  
Tuesday, June 28, 2022**

**University of Akron Martin Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve  
4240 Ira Rd., Akron, OH 44333**

Please note: In light of the unpredictable trajectory of COVID-19 cases in our local area, the traditional picnic before the talk at the field station has been cancelled! Masks will be required inside the field station. If you'd like to arrive at **6:30 p.m.** we'll have **social time and a Swap Meet** of sorts. Please bring any old books or nature or bird-related paraphernalia with you that you wish to find new homes for. Any items you bring that still remain after our program would need to return home with you. Our **speaker** will take the floor at **7:15 p.m.** inside the field station. To reach the Martin Field Station, after turning onto the Bath Nature Preserve drive, continue straight, past the first parking lot, and continue on the road, mindful of the speed bumps, until it ends at the parking area. The field station is in the white "house" at the end of the drive.

The Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association (PLPMA), headed by Larry Hunter at the time, was instrumental in recognizing the Portage Lakes area and getting it designated by the Ohio legislature as the Purple Martin Capital of Ohio. Larry is one of the founding members of the organization, founded in 2000; the group is dedicated to helping Purple Martins feed, breed and prosper

in their natural habitat and educate the public on the benefit of these birds.



Each August, the Purple Martins congregate in large numbers each night to roost in the reed beds in Nimisila Reservoir before eventually continuing on their extended two – three-month-long migration to South America. The annual natural phenomenon also draws ever-increasing crowds of humans on the shore and on watercraft in the water to view and experience it first-hand. Many may recall this online piece done by former Bird Watcher’s Digest’s Jessica Vaughan last August; it’s still available here: [Purple Martin Majesty \(bwdmagazine.com\)](https://www.bwdmagazine.com/purple-martin-majesty) In it, she shares text, photos and video footage of the spectacle. [In fact, it was during one of these many magical evenings in August 2020 that the immature Brown Booby was discovered by Henry Trimpe along with Dwight and Ann Chasar.] Larry serves as an advisor to the PLPMA today and also captains a pontoon boat for the popular Twilight Boat rides that took 478 folks out on the water to experience the spectacle last season. Current Black River Audubon Society President, Rob Swindell, also penned an article about the martins and his August 2021 experience at Nimisila in the Lorain Chronicle Telegram: [As summer wanes, purple martins pass over Summit County on the way south | Chronicle Telegram](https://www.chronicletelegram.com/as-summer-wanes-purple-martins-pass-over-summit-county-on-the-way-south)

Come hear Larry share his life’s passion for these birds as he recounts the history of the PLPMA and its efforts to work with the community to collect data

and foster the birds' continued return to our area.

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Bird Walks

Howls for Owls

Saturday, June 18, 2022 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Clinton Towpath Trailhead

2749 North St. Clinton, OH 44216

Come learn about the night sounds of the woods as you hike along the Ohio and Erie Towpath Trail with a naturalist from Summit Metro Parks. The naturalist will attempt to call in some of the owls and animals. A flashlight may come in handy and you may want to bring your binoculars in case any owls are spotted.

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### **Bird Walk in Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Saturday June 25, 2022 7:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Ledges Shelter Parking Lot/Trailhead**

**405 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264**

Join volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar as he leads a bird walk along the 2.2 mile unpaved, rocky, Ledges Trail searching for nesting northern specialties. Binoculars are recommended.

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Other News You Can Use



Young Birder-Entrepreneur Creates a Game-Changing Video Game to Engage Younger Birders!

Seventeen-year-old Adam Dhalla discovered birding at age 6 – yet he also observed that no children were afield during his birding excursions in the Pacific Northwest. He also loves video games. Learn how he’s combined these two loves to create an engaging video game called ***Find the Birds*** to attract other children and adults to birding. This recent article by BirdWatching Daily ([‘Find the Birds’ mobile game makes positive impact - BirdWatching \(birdwatchingdaily.com\)](https://birdwatchingdaily.com)) cites a few statistics about this game that is taking the world by storm. An excerpt is here:

“***Find the Birds*** is currently being played by thousands in 47 countries. It has an average rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars on Google Play and the Apple App Store. When it launched a year ago, it ranked in Apple’s Top 100 Educational Games.

In a recent online survey, 98 percent of people reported having a greater appreciation of birds after playing it. No fewer than 84 percent said they had an increased understanding of conservation. Quite a few spoke of volunteering with bird organizations because of the website links embedded in the game. While most of our players are 7-12 years old, there are many adults as well.”

The game is free and encourages gamers to turn off their devices and go outside. Cornell Lab of Ornithology provides photography, and audio and video files and currently there are three birding habitats to play in: Arizona, British

Columbia and Japan. A fourth location, the Illinois River Flyway, is coming in September.

As a result of its significant positive impact, Adam will be presenting at the upcoming virtual International Ornithological Congress 2022, a partnership between IOU and University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

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## **Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Have a New Campaign Underway!**

The non-profit group ([Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge - Home \(friendsofottawanwr.org\)](http://friendsofottawanwr.org)) is looking to raise funds to purchase a new passenger shuttle to increase refuge accessibility! Puddles, the Blue Goose mascot writes, “So frequently we hear visitors tell us how they used to walk all over the trails but now they have to stick to the Wildlife Drive because they just can’t walk that far. Imagine what a GAME CHANGER it would be for so many people if we could do something about that...”

Together, we can! Introducing the MotoEV Electro Transit 15 Passenger Shuttle. With your support Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge will purchase this electric tram which will allow volunteers to drive visitors on the hiking trails. We envision the electric tram being used during special events, for tour requests from local community groups, and during environmental education field trips to showcase a variety of habitats and wildlife. It could even be used to shuttle visitors to their favorite sections of the hiking trails where they could be dropped off and picked up on a schedule, allowing visitors to watch wildlife without worrying about the hike to get there! With your help, we can achieve the goal of access to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge!

Please consider making an investment in accessibility for outdoor recreation at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Our goal of \$25,000 will allow us to purchase the electric tram and continue supporting our education, conservation, and restoration efforts at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.”





View this cute video: [Puddles Needs Your Help! - YouTube](#). To date, the campaign is about 68% funded and still needs about \$8,000.



## June is PRIDE Month!



Painted Bunting Photo: Mick Thompson

From our friends at BirdNote: For many, birding is better when we're able to participate in a welcoming environment that gives us a sense of belonging and community. BirdNote has compiled a list of opportunities to help LGBTQ+

birders and allies find comfortable spaces to facilitate conversations and participate in events based on a shared interest in birds and a dedication to inclusivity: [6 Birding Communities to Help you Celebrate Pride Month | BirdNote](#) One of the 6 named groups is National Audubon Society's Let's Go Birding Together, an initiative that recognizes the LGBTQ community and all who identify as LGBTQ, allies, families, and anyone who wants to enjoy an outdoor experience that is inclusive. Although there are birding activities listed, none are in our area. Check them out here: [Let's Go Birding Together! | Audubon](#) Perhaps next year, we can work toward having a walk listed for our chapter's area?

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Results of Piping Plover's Necropsy Are In



Monty, from Bob Dolgan, filmmaker, "*Monty and Rose*"

Turnstone Productions

As expected, the results of deceased Piping Plover Monty's necropsy were

announced last week. The tests revealed that Monty had a severe fungal respiratory infection, including a laryngitis, that restricted his airway. Lincoln Park Zoo announced the finding after it conducted a necropsy of Monty in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Zoological Pathology Program. Further testing concluded Monty did not show any signs of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), also known as bird flu.

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A limited number of these 12 X 16" yard signs are free for the asking (please email [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org) to request one). The signs have a QR code

and are meant to inform passersby of the Homegrown National Park project and explain the urgent need to plant native plants, for the birds and for biodiversity –in hopes that others will be motivated to do the same.

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Results of Ohio's Sandhill Crane Survey

Twenty-four pre-selected counties in Ohio were chosen to participate in this year's Sandhill Crane survey as part of a larger effort, the April 2022 Midwest Crane Count. The designated count day was April 9, 2022 between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. and volunteers were assigned 10-square mile survey blocks and were encouraged to scout out driving routes in advance of the survey. Summit County reported 2 Sandhill Cranes for this count. *Is it possible that our Summer Bird Census will find more?* The statewide results are now available through ODNR's Division of Wildlife here: [Ohio Sandhill Crane Survey Results | Ohio Department of Natural Resources \(ohiodnr.gov\)](https://ohiodnr.gov) And a more in-depth, recent article in the Wooster Daily Record ([Wayne County is No. 1 in Ohio for sandhill cranes in state count \(the-daily-record.com\)](https://the-daily-record.com)) cited our May program speaker, **Randy Carmel**, about the cranes in Holmes County and in particular, the Killbuck Swamp Preserve. The captivating Sandhill Crane photos in that article were taken by Kisa Weeman, who is also the East-Central Regional Director for the Ohio Ornithological Society. Dates for helping with the 2023 Midwest Crane Count have been set and volunteers can mark their calendars for Saturday, April 15, 2023.

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**Pollinator Week Coming Up: June 20 – 26, 2022**



Project Wingspan (PW) is a multi-year landscape-scale project supported by donations, sponsorships, and several grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the non-profit Pollinator Partnership. Pollinator Partnership is working with a coalition of partners and an amazing team of dedicated volunteers to increase the quality, quantity, and connectivity of pollinator habitat across the Midwest and Great Lakes Region to support imperiled native pollinators and the vital habitat on which they depend. Learn more about the Pollinator Partnership and their efforts with Project Wingspan here: [Project Wingspan | Pollinator.org](https://www.pollinator.org)

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Your Chapter Could Use Your Help! Be Our 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. If you'd like to help, please email info@akronaudubon.org.

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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 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 (<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](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

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