



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS June Program

Featuring Speaker Brad Imhoff

On the Wing: The Beauty of Birds

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:00 p.m.

UA Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve

4160 Ira Rd, Akron, OH 44333

(the Field Station is located at the end of the drive)



“On the Wing: The Beauty of Birds” is a presentation of bird photographs Brad has taken across the country, often with his wife and young kids tagging

along. Join him as he shares the images and the passion and dedication involved in capturing them. From wading into wetlands to photograph ducks to lying in the mud to get eye-level with shorebirds to his family's well-established "ice cream birds," the images and stories behind them are sure to entertain.

The Dawes Arboretum

Exhibit

David Rogers' Big Bugs: Ants

Through August 25, 2024

Monday through Thursday and Sunday

8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

7770 Jacksontown Rd., SE

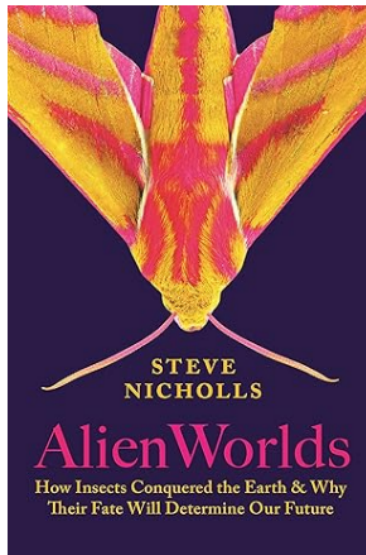
Newark, OH 43056



Ants are social insects and within a colony there are workers, soldiers, drones and the queen. Each of these roles has different responsibilities for the colony. Three magnificent ant sculptures, each 25 feet in length, 12 feet in width and 10 feet in height are located along the Japanese Garden Trail. The bodies are made of bent willow on armature and the eyes are carved red

cedar. These huge ants also weigh 725 pounds. For ticket information and more, visit [Buy Tickets](#) | [The Dawes Arboretum](#).

Environment for the Americas
Virtual Bird Book Club
Alien Worlds: How Insects Conquered the Earth,
and Why Their Fate Will Determine Our Future
With Author Steve Nicholls
Thursday, June 27, 2024
1:00 p.m.



In keeping with the *Protect Insects, Protect Birds* theme for 2024, this month's book club will explore insects through Steve Nicholls' book, *Alien Worlds*. Ideal for nature enthusiasts and science lovers, EFTA hosts will dive into the hidden realms of insects, their roles in our ecosystem, origins, diversity, and unique senses. Pre-registration is required: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

American Bird Conservancy Webinar
A Pivotal Partnership for

Imperiled Shorebirds and Living Fossils

Thursday, June 27, 2024

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.



Every spring, thousands of Red Knots travel 9,000 miles from South America's Tierra del Fuego to the Canadian Arctic for their breeding season. With such a long migration, this shorebird must make stops along the way to eat and rest. The Delaware Bay is the perfect pitstop, where the horseshoe crab eggs provide nourishment for the exhausted Red Knots and other migratory shorebirds.

But this essential food source is under threat. Unsustainable harvesting of horseshoe crabs in the Atlantic Coast led to the loss of two thirds of its population in the 1990's, severely impacting the Red Knot and other species that eat its eggs.

Almost a decade after American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and partners successfully pushed for the Red Knot's Threatened status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there is still much work ahead to recover the species. ABC is advocating for solutions to conserve both the horseshoe crab and the Red Knot, as part of the Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition (HCRC), a partnership of more than 50 organizations. A link to the webinar will be sent after registering: [A Pivotal Partnership for Imperiled Shorebirds and Living Fossils \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org). If you can't make the webinar live, RSVP and ABC will send you a recording to enjoy when the time is right for you!

Buckeye Martifest
Sunday, June 30, 2024
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
North Reservoir Boat Ramp
803 State Mill Rd., Coventry, OH 44319



Come out for this free Portage Lakes tradition, now in its 20th year. Hosted by the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, this annual event allows the public to learn about what makes the Purple Martins so special and why they're so important to the community. See the babies in their nests; hold and see the birds being banded; learn how to feed them; visit information booths, play games and make crafts; and learn about the August twilight boat rides on Nimisila Reservoir. There'll be food vendors, raffles and door prizes. Just for this occasion, Blimp City Bike & Hike has donated an e-bike to be raffled; tickets will be offered at the event – 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25. Come out and say, "Hi," to the GAAS volunteers, who will have a table promoting our chapter at this event.



Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Bird Banding Demonstrations

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

7:30 – 9:30 a.m. and

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

(Advance registration required)



Come join the park's biologist to learn about their bird banding program. The program will include a guided hike to our bird banding location. At the location, participants will enjoy a close-up view of our feathered friends while quietly observing scientists measure, weigh, band, and safely release birds. 1.5 mile easy hike. **Program repeats on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at same times.** To register, see links at [Bird Banding Demonstrations by Cuyahoga Valley National Park | Eventbrite](#)

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Junior Ranger Jr. Program

Feathered Friends

Saturday, July 6, 2024

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Program repeats Saturday, August 10, 2024

(Location provided upon registration.)



This children's program for ages 4 – 6 (accompanied by an adult) focuses on birds! Discover what makes birds unique and different from other animals through activities and stories. Afterward, hike the area and look (and listen) for birds! Only participating children need tickets; adults do not. Tickets do not need to be printed for the event. Register in advance at [Junior Ranger Jr.: Feathered Friends Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

Medina County Parks

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, July 13, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 14, 2024

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Oenslager Nature Center

6100 Ridge Rd., Sharon Township

(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)



Are you looking to add some diversity to your landscape to increase habitat and biodiversity? Look no further than the annual native plant sale at the Oenslager Nature Center. Stop by during business hours to pick from a nice selection of reasonably-priced, ecologically important native plants. A variety of species in limited quantities will be available. Plants are grown by Camel Creek Natives and sold through Friends of Medina County Parks. Plants are \$5 each, and trees are \$10 each. Cash or checks only, please, and please bring your own box for carrying plants home. Please note that this sale will continue, subject to plant availability, on July 20 – 21, and on July 27 – 28.

****Save the date** for Medina County Park District's *Native Plant Festival and Sale*:
September 7, 2024

Summit Metro Parks Program

Bird Nerds: Anatomy

Saturday, July 20, 2024

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Newbies and experts alike are welcome to join a naturalist in this lively series for a fun, approachable discussion on a new bird topic each month. This month's topic will explore the unique adaptations of the bird's body that make them masters of their trade.



Summit Metro Parks Virtual Program

Purple Martins Take Flight

Monday, August 12, 2024

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.



It's a bird cyclone! Join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist online to discover the magical and mysterious story of the charismatic Purple Martin that mesmerizes paddlers at Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park and throughout the world. [www.Zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join) and Key in Meeting ID: [861 3928 6682](https://www.zoom.us/join)



Summit Metro Parks Program

Bird Nerds: Flight

Saturday, August 24, 2024

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



Newbies and experts alike are welcome to join us in this lively series for a fun, approachable discussion on a new bird topic each month. In August, the topic will be the power of flight and how it influences a bird's world.



3D Movie: Wings Over Water

Playing Now Through September 30, 2024

Murch Auditorium

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

1 Wade Oval Drive, Cleveland, OH 44106



Narrated by Michael Keaton, this film tells the story of three amazing bird species—the Sandhill Crane, the Yellow Warbler, and the Mallard duck—that depend on wetlands for survival. Through extraordinary footage, you'll experience the triumphs and challenges of these remarkable creatures as they head home to raise their young, soaring across mountains, deserts, cities, and forests. You will also meet the dedicated land stewards and

scientists who understand the importance of protecting wetlands—a diverse and vital ecosystem. The film's run time is 27 minutes and is included with admission to the museum or with museum membership. Showtimes are 10:15 a.m., 11:35 a.m., 12:55 p.m., 2:15 p.m., and 3:45 p.m. daily. Showtimes are subject to change based on Museum programming and events. Please call the Box Office at 216.231.4600 for more information or to confirm showtimes.

Bird Walks

Summit Metro Parks

Clever Corvids

Friday, July 12, 2024 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Pheasant Run Area

Silver Creek Metro Park

5000 Hametown Rd.

Norton, OH 44203



Ravens and Crows and Jays, oh my! Enjoy a brief presentation on corvids, followed by a bird walk on the 1.2-mile Pheasant Run Trail in hopes of spotting them.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Bird Walk

Saturday, July 13, 2024

7:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Howe Meadow Parking Lot South
4040 Riverview Rd., Peninsula, OH 44264



Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk in search of common nesters and newly fledged birds, and maybe a soaring Mississippi kite. This walk is on a flat, unpaved grassy area.

Summit Metro Parks
Grassland Bird Exploration
Saturday, July 13, 2024

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

U A Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve
4240 Ira Rd., Akron, OH 44333
(the Field Station is at the end of the drive)



Join a naturalist in collaboration with The University of Akron Field Station to search for Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks and other exciting grassland birds. Some binoculars will be provided.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Bird Walk

Saturday, August 10, 2024

7:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Wetmore Trailhead

4653 Wetmore Rd., Peninsula, OH 44264



Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk along the hilly, unpaved Wetmore trails looking for Chestnut-sided Warblers and newly fledged birds that call the park home.



Summit Metro Parks

Beginner Prairie Birding

Saturday, August 10, 2024

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Springfield Bog Metro Park

1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp., OH 44312



No experience? No problem! Join a naturalist for a hike along the 1.6-mile Prairie Trail to experience the joys of prairie birding. Binoculars are available to borrow on a first come, first-served basis.

Summit Metro Parks
After Work Bird Walk
Monday, August 12, 2024
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Goodyear Heights Metro Park
Main Entrance
2077 Newton St., Akron, OH 44305



Less work, more warblers. Escape the office and enjoy a relaxed bird walk on the 1.4-mile Alder Trail.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Bird Walk
Saturday, August 24, 2024
7:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Boston Mill Visitor Center
6947 Riverview Rd., Peninsula, OH 44264



Join park staff for a bird walk on the firm, flat Towpath Trail looking for Peregrine Falcons and early migrating shore birds.

News You Can Use

New(er) Resources for Ecological Landscaping (For help with planting natives)



From the Summer 2024 *Ohio Woodlands, Water, & Wildlife Newsletter*, Marne Titchenell (OSU Extension Program Director, Wildlife) mentions some new fact sheets and resources to help with planning and planting new wildlife-friendly areas and living landscapes. Check out the resources, including two new(ish) fact sheets on native trees and shrubs for wildlife AND a hot-off-the-press quick guide. These as well as other great resources are listed on a recent blog post, ***The WildSide@OSU***: check out another series, *Plant by Numbers*, that has garden plans for Butterflies & Moths, Specialist Bees, Bumble Bees, Hummers & Singers, or Good Garden Bugs. Her post is a treasure trove of resources that includes info about native bees, bats, moths (mention of McCormac and Gottfried's book, *Gardening for Moths*) and residential window strikes by birds and how best to prevent them. See the blog post at [Marne Titchenell | TheWildSide@OSU](#)

More New Resources:

Eastern Forest Pests

And

Healthy Woods App



HealthyWoods



Last year, a collaborative publication between the OSU Extension and the ODNR, ***Ohio Forest Pests: A Field Guide*** was produced and distributed but it has quickly become outdated. The material in the field guide can now be accessed online: [Eastern Forest Pests](#). The online resource attempts to provide identification resources for the insects and diseases most likely to be encountered in Ohio woodlands. Many pests and pathogens are particularly problematic for our forests and are spreading to new areas. As birders, we can keep our eyes out for them and use the links on this website to report them. Recently, the elm zigzag sawfly has been added to the pest radar and will be added to the online version of the guide.

In addition, an app ([HealthyWoods \(healthywoodsapp.org\)](http://healthywoodsapp.org)) that was created several years ago, has been updated and integrated with the material on the website so that landowners or others can access the material in the field guide and use the resource in the field to take a survey to determine a forest's health.

**Birds Canada Joins the Conserva Aves Initiative to
Support Local Protected Areas in
Latin America and the Caribbean**



Last month, following a major (\$15 million over three years) investment from the Canadian government, Birds Canada officially joined the Conserva Aves Initiative, a hemisphere-wide effort to conserve the most critical habitat for birds in Latin America and the Caribbean. Birds Canada joins Conserva Aves in its work to establish reserves throughout the Americas to protect some of the hemisphere's most vulnerable migratory and endemic species. Birds Canada (the Canadian counterpart to National Audubon in the United States) becomes the newest partner in Conserva Aves — a bird and biodiversity conservation partnership created in 2021 — joining American Bird Conservancy (ABC), National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC). The added investment will provide support of locally-led conservation efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean that will create 100 new protected areas totaling at least 4.9 million acres (2 million hectares). Elizabeth Gray, CEO of National Audubon Society, welcomed Birds Canada: “A hemispheric approach to bird conservation is one of the key drivers in Audubon’s ongoing work to bend the bird curve, and Conserva Aves is a powerful example of that. In less than two years, the initiative has seen significant results made possible by working with communities, local and national partners, and international allies to pool resources around a common goal. What began as a daring idea and ambitious model, is now an innovative and growing alliance where new partners like Birds Canada can find the energy, knowledge, people, and resources to bend the bird curve in favor of biodiversity and the endemic and migratory birds that these territories share. We celebrate the arrival of this new member to Conserva Aves.”

See the announcement on the Birds Canada website: [Conserva Aves – Birds Canada | Oiseaux Canada](#) and from American Bird Conservancy: [Birds Canada Joins the Conserva Aves Initiative to Support Local Protected Areas in Latin America and the Caribbean – American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#).

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**Black Birders Week fosters diverse  
Northeast Ohio birdwatching community  
and outdoor family bonding**



Birdwatchers scan the sky for birds at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve on Saturday May 25, 2024 during Journey on Yonder and The Trust for Public Land's Black Birders Week hike.

Ideastream Public Media | By Zaria Johnson Published May 31, 2024 at 6:15 AM EDT:

A story about Black Birders Week was recently aired on *Fresh Air*. A bird walk held May 25, 2024 at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, co-hosted by The Trust for Public Land and Journey on Yonder, highlighted one family's experience with birding and being out in nature in the morning. "One of the goals of the Trust is to get more Black residents outdoors, and birding is a great way to do that," Sean Terry, Director of the Ohio chapter of the Trust for Public Land said. Have a listen (4:18) or read the transcript: [Black Birders Week fosters diverse Northeast Ohio birdwatching community | Ideastream Public Media](#)

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**Congratulations, Canton Audubon Society!**  
**Our Neighboring Audubon Chapter**  
**Awarded a 2024 Collaborative Grant**  
**From National Audubon Society**



Great Egret. Photo: Rick Derevan/Audubon Photography Awards

Audubon's 2024 grant program is funding chapter projects that contribute toward Flight Plan, Audubon's strategic plan for 2023 through 2028. Audubon Collaborative Grants provide financial support up to \$1,000. Canton Audubon Society was the only Ohio chapter awarded a grant in this year's cycle. A description of their project follows:

Canton Audubon Society in Ohio intends to purchase Wood Duck nest boxes for the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Clendening Lake and Bolivar or Beach City, East/SE Ohio to increase nesting habitat for Wood Ducks and to inspire others to become involved with conservation at local wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams.



### Road Trip Idea



This year also marks the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of the first Peterson Field Guide and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI) in Jamestown, NY. The Institute, now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, is celebrating with a full season of exhibitions, events and special anniversary programs. "Through world class exhibitions and programs, RTPI illuminates the beauty of nature; challenges us to confront

environmental issues of regional, national and global concern; and inspires us to preserve the earth's biodiversity – with a particular emphasis on the natural area wonders of Western New York.” Featured through August 25, 2024 is author *Amy Tan's Backyard Birds* and an exhibit of the history of Peterson Field Guides (through March 9, 2025) Check out the full schedule of events here: [Programs and Events | Roger Tory Peterson Institute \(rtpi.org\)](https://www.rtpi.org/programs-and-events). The Peterson Preserve and Lois Buck Nature Trails are open year round, seven days a week, dawn to dusk and wind through 27 acres of hemlock forest, successional woodlands, pollinator meadows and pollinator gardens. Two half-mile trails wind through the preserve -- be on the lookout for several carved sculptures and QR code signposts linking to online artwork and nature information. Wildflower gardens, a bluebird trail and lots of bird feeders provide plenty of opportunities for close-up experience of birds, butterflies and bees. Throughout the preserve, there are numerous benches and a covered gazebo.

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## Greater Akron Audubon Society

### Year in Review and Message from Outgoing President



One year ago in this newsletter space we reported all the activities and accomplishments of the Greater Akron Audubon Society during the 2022 – 2023 program year. Once again, a brief summary of the 2023 – 2024 GAAS season follows:

- Arranged for and hosted nine monthly programs, virtually or in-person, for the benefit of chapter members and the public – including the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in April and the Bert Szabo Legacy Address in May.
- Participated in eight tabling and activity events in Summit and Medina Counties, with the help of volunteers, that created outreach opportunities about birds and conservation efforts to over 2300 individuals of all ages.
- Held eight bird walks at various locations in Summit County and participated in several others offered through Summit Metro Parks.

- Partnered with local, state, regional, national and international organizations to advocate for birds and the places they need (i.e., programming with Summit Metro Parks; support to Akron Environmental Justice Coalition and Preserve the Valley Coalition; participation in Lights Out Akron/Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI); Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association; Ohio Division of Wildlife Biodiversity Conference; Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC); Audubon Great Lakes Chapter Leader meetings; Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, University of Akron Field Station, Ohio Invasive Plant Council, and Institute for Bird Populations).
- Compiled and sent 19 issues of *For the Birds* enews to about 870 email addresses between September 2023 and June 2024, publicizing bird-related programs, bird walks, advocacy opportunities and local, regional, national and international bird and conservation-related news.
- Successfully completed GAAS 84<sup>th</sup> year of the Christmas Bird Count.
- Held the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Breeding Bird Census (2023) in Summit County, Ohio.
- Held another successful Bird Seed Sale, our only fundraising effort of the year.
- Continued to distribute signage in collaboration with the *Homegrown National Park* for support of native plants for birds and biodiversity.
- Continued to make Feather Friendly® window tape available to homeowners to prevent bird collisions with residential glass.
- Maintained and regularly posted to GAAS Facebook and Instagram social media accounts.
- Maintained and regularly updated the chapter's website to keep current with monthly programs, enews, census results, field efforts, outreach efforts, and other bird-friendly resources.
- Increased the publicity efforts for our programs and outreach endeavors.
- Participated in ongoing Climate Watch data collection each winter and spring.
- Welcomed four new Board members to the leadership team.
- Participated in name change discussions with other chapters in the Great Lakes region and nationally.
- Submitted a revised-format Annual Report to National Audubon for baseline funding payment and chapter re-certification with National.

A message from outgoing President, Sherilyn Burns:

National Audubon Society is focused on a strategic Flight Plan to bend the bird curve with metrics that focus on four core milestones: Habitat Conservation, Climate Action, Policy and Community Building. Many of these milestones are out of our control, but Community Building is one that, on a local scale, we have the most control over: by 2028, National Audubon would like to see its membership doubled from 2022 enrollment.

In order to bring value to the chapter and communicate with members or any who may be interested in birds or their conservation, I've regularly compiled this enews from numerous sources, twice per month for 10 months over the last 4 years so as to reach a broad base of interest. Wolfgang Pelz and Paul Moser have been instrumental in editing and formatting the content using an email service (MailChimp or MailerLite). I accepted the role of President (that currently has no term limits) of our chapter to keep a grass roots presence in our area during the COVID pandemic and beyond, and I hope that I've re-invigorated the group to some extent. Change has been a constant at all levels during this time and we've deliberately tried to collaborate with other organizations in the interest of bird conservation and education. Generally, other volunteer-run Audubon chapters have committees such as programs, advocacy, outreach, field trip coordinator, publicity, volunteer-run organizations, fund-raising, newsletter, Christmas Bird Count, etc. Our chapter lacks most of these functional entities and a handful of board members manage daily concerns as they arise. Currently, there is no one in line to take on the role of President and, during the past year, several individuals have stepped up to take on education, outreach, and publicity, for which I'm thankful. Trying to match the interests, skillsets and capabilities of volunteers with the needs of the chapter has been challenging but we've made progress over the last four years – although we could use more help with Treasurer and technical needs.

All volunteer organizations seem to be at a crossroads these days. Our older members have devoted their energies to bird causes throughout their lives and are no longer physically able to continue. Without a broader base of support by those who are aware of ecology, I don't believe we can change the trajectory of our natural world. But I do see hope in a younger generation of individuals who live their values and have the energy and updated skillsets to carry on the torch for conservation. My motivation for moving out of my comfort zone and being the face of GAAS over the last few years comes from Dr. Suess's *The Lorax*: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." It's now time for new faces who care, to navigate toward GAAS's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to be the voice, in concert with National Audubon's Flight Plan, for birds and the places they need, in Chapter S-64.

*"The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it."*

— Sir David Attenborough

As usual, the Greater Akron Audubon Society will be on summer hiatus during the summer months of July and August. Look for a new season of monthly programs to be held in the west room at Goodyear Hts. Lodge starting September 24, 2024.

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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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](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](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

**Follow us on Instagram:** @akronaudubon

**Find us on Facebook:** @greaterakronaudubon

### Greater Akron Audubon Society

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