



Upcoming Programs and Events

A FREE Community Event! 19th Annual
Buckeye MartinFest



SUNDAY June 25, 2023
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 Portage Lake community!

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

FOOD VENDOR RAFFLE PRIZES

Barnett's Tree Service

PROGRESSIVE

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



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

4160 Ira Rd., Akron, OH 44333



Lara Roketenetz at BNP by Meghan Meeker

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](#)



**Discover Native Plants**

**Thursday, June 29, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Rock & Herb Garden at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm**

**1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313**



Drop-in anytime during the hours listed to discover the beauty, resilience, and ecological importance of native plants through a variety of interactive tabletop activities. A naturalist will be on hand to answer questions and provide landscaping insight. Seed packets will be available, while supplies last. Meet in the Rock & Herb Garden.



**Bird Nerds: Grassland Birds**

**Saturday, July 8, 2023**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**U. A. Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve**

4160 Ira Rd., Akron, OH 44333



Summit Metro Parks is hitting the road for the July special edition of Bird Nerds! They'll meet at the University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve to explore grassland birds through a presentation followed by a hike. Space is limited to 50 people, so advance registration is required by calling [330-865-8065](tel:330-865-8065).

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**Bird Nerds: Water Birds**

**Saturday, August 12, 2023**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Visitors Center at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm**

1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313



August's edition of Bird Nerds features water birds! While March's program covered ducks and geese, this month will explore a smorgasbord of other birds associated with water. This all-indoor presentation will be perfect for those seeking a deeper look at birds.

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**Keep up with Summer Programs and Events**

Find additional programs of interest:

Medina County Parks: [Summer\\_2023web.pdf \(medinacountyparks.com\)](#)

Summit Metro Parks: [Programs & Events Calendar | Summit Metro Parks](#)

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## **Bird Walks**

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Bird Walk**

**Saturday, July 15, 2023**

**7:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Howe Meadow Parking Lot South**

**4040 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264**



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

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**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Bird Walk**

**Saturday, July 29, 2023**

**7:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Wetmore Trailhead Parking Lot**

**4653 Wetmore Road, Peninsula 44264**



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



**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Bird Walk**

**Saturday, August 19, 2023**

**7:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Boston Mill Visitor Center Parking Lot**

**6947 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264**



Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk on the firm, flat Towpath Trail looking for Peregrine Falcons and early migrating shore birds.



**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Bird Walk**

**Saturday, September 9, 2023**

**7:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Everett Covered Bridge Parking Lot**

**2370 Everett Road, Peninsula 44264**



Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk along flat, unpaved trail looking for fall migrants in the lowland forests along Furnace Run.

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## News You Can Use

### Calling All Birders who Bird in Cuyahoga Valley National Park: Your Observations Are Needed for Breeding Bird Behaviors Through July 31, 2023



Biologist Mariamar Gutierrez Ramirez and Scientist in Parks Intern, Resources Management Division, Megan Spina are gathering data in the park about 11 focus birds of conservation concern. This ***Focused Condition Assessment: Birds of Conservation Concern at CUVA*** aims to gather evidence of successful breeding throughout the 33,000 acres of the park, determine population trends, and determine important habitat associations for a suite of 30 species of birds of conservation concern—11 of which the park has little breeding data about. Using an app called *Survey 123*, data can be entered directly in the field for each bird or pair of birds heard and/or seen. The location, date, time and any notes about breeding behaviors can also be entered on a desktop at a later date. The 11 birds of focus concern are Red-headed Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Henslow's Sparrow, Common Merganser, Cerulean Warbler, Chimney Swift, Brown Creeper, Bobolink, and Black-billed Cuckoo. Reminders to stay on trails, know signs of distress and avoid using broadcast calls or playback should be noted so as to cause the least amount of stress to the birds. Watch a training video about the survey here: [Bird\\_Survey123\\_Volunteer\\_Training.mp4 - Google Drive](#) and email [mspina@nps.gov](mailto:mspina@nps.gov) or [mariamar\\_gutierrezramirez@nps.gov](mailto:mariamar_gutierrezramirez@nps.gov) with any questions or to request a volunteer packet about the 11 species. Please indicate in your email if you would like to be assigned a species (indicate three preferred species) or a particular area of the park you'd like to survey.

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**Vote in Ohio's Special Election August 8th!**

The Ohio legislature has appropriated \$20 million to the Secretary of State in fiscal year 2023 to pay the cost of conducting a special election on **August 8, 2023**. Although it is facing a legal challenge in the Ohio Supreme Court, the *ballot issue asks voters whether or not to make it harder to pass future constitutional amendments by requiring 60% voter approval instead of the current majority*. The results of this expensive election will have far-reaching consequences on Ohio legislation and citizen-led amendments, including legislation that may focus on bird conservation practices. Please study up and decide for yourself what the future holds for the power of the individual voter in Ohio. The registration deadline for the August 8, 2023 Special Election is Monday, July 10, 2023 and early in-person voting starts July 11<sup>th</sup> and continues through August 6<sup>th</sup>. Or, submit an application to request an absentee ballot by mail and follow the guidelines for its return to your county's Board of Elections. Polls are open for in-person voting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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### **Cocoa Joins The Bird Friendly™ Ranks at Smithsonian**

Sources: Cornell Lab eNews, May 2023; American Bird Conservancy News; Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.



Image courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.

“Smithsonian scientists have found that cocoa farms with 30-40% canopy cover and diverse shade trees could support as many bird species as undisturbed forests. Based on these findings, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center researchers developed the certification standard for Bird Friendly cocoa. Cocoa is the second crop type certified by the Smithsonian Bird Friendly program, following coffee.

Instead of clearing rainforest, Bird Friendly cocoa grows under and alongside the shade of native trees that provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. All Bird Friendly certified cocoa meets strict environmental criteria developed by Smithsonian scientists, assessing for qualities like canopy cover, tree height, and organic certification, resulting in the most biodiversity-friendly chocolates on the market.”



Read more about the designation and how, after more than 20 years since the Smithsonian created the Bird Friendly certification standard for coffee, cocoa is the second crop type to be certified: [Be a Tweeheart: Eat Chocolate and Save Birds - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#) and [Smithsonian Bird Friendly | Smithsonian's National Zoo \(si.edu\)](#).

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## **Lonely Pet Parrots Taught to Video Call Each Other**

Source: Smithsonian Magazine Smart News, April 24, 2023; Sarah Kuta, Daily Correspondent

New research shows that domesticated parrots may benefit from the social interactions that come with connecting with their peers. The pet parrots were taught by their trained caregivers how to initiate video calls with other parrots in the study and quickly learned to make deliberate calls to certain individuals. The owners took extensive notes and monitored what new skills their birds were learning from their virtual companions. It appeared that the birds forged strong friendships, which researchers measured by how frequently they chose to call the same individual. Parrots who initiated the highest number of video calls also received the most calls. While video chatting can't replace the social interactions that would occur in the wild, it may be a viable option for improving the lives of an estimated 20 million pet parrots that are already in captivity in the United States, the researchers noted. When kept in captivity, such as in people's homes as pets, these social birds are often on their own. Feeling bored and isolated, they may develop psychological issues and can even resort to self-harming tendencies like plucking out their feathers. Read more about the study and its implications here: [Scientists Taught Pet Parrots to Video Call Each Other—and the Birds Loved It | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

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## **GAAS: Moving Forward...or not?**

As we close out this program year at Greater Akron Audubon Society, our leaders would like to update everyone about the activities and accomplishments of our local chapter since July 1, 2022:

- Created and hosted our annual speakers series that brought nine in-person or virtual programs to the members and public, including the establishment of the annual Bert Szabo Legacy Address that honors Summit Metro Parks' first naturalist and GAAS's long-time member in capacity of both an officer and a Christmas Bird Count Compiler.
- Participated in four 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 2500 individuals of all ages.

- Held eight bird walks at various locations in Summit County and participated in several others offered through Summit Metro Parks.
- Created and produced new volunteer tee shirts for our volunteers so that we can be easily identified at public events and show support for engagement with our chapter.
- 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 and Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI), Ohio Division of Wildlife Biodiversity Conference, Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC), and regional Audubon Great Lakes Chapter Leader meetings).
- Created and sent 17 issues of ***For the Birds*** enews to about 900 email addresses between September 2022 and June 2023, publicizing bird-related programs, bird walks, advocacy opportunities and local, regional, national and international bird and conservation-related news.
- Donated \$750 to Ometepe, our partner bird research station in Nicaragua, to help with transportation and expenses related to data collection for MoSI (Monitoring Neotropical Migrants in Winter) initiative through *Institute for Bird Populations*.
- Contributed \$1,500 to the UA Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve so that young students in northeast Ohio can experience bird-related programming through the outreach efforts there.
- Held another very successful Bird Seed Sale, our only fundraising effort of the year.
- Welcomed Daniel Toth as our new Christmas Bird Count Compiler.
- Welcomed Paul Moser as the new coordinator of the Summer Breeding Bird Census.
- 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 surfaces.
- Maintained and regularly posted to GAAS Facebook and Instagram 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.

The majority of these undertakings were accomplished by a handful of engaged constituents who cannot continue to perform multiple roles at the current level of devotion.

Many hands make lighter work for all and in order to remain a viable volunteer organization, we need help! During our summer hiatus, please consider offering to share your time, energy and strengths in any of the following ways:

- Chairing our annual Wild Bird Seed Sale and Fundraiser held each fall.
- Helping develop our monthly program speakers series, including speaker follow-up.
- Assuming active role in maintaining the GAAS website.
- Coordinating Outreach activities and tabling events with partner organizations.
- Communicating (in Spanish) with our MoSI station partners at Ometepe, Nicaragua.

- Leading bird walks and/or field trips.
- Help with collaborative efforts with partnering organizations, including grant-writing.
- Taking on role of Treasurer of our chapter.
- Heading up conservation advocacy issues.
- Compiling and/or formatting our enews, ***For the Birds***.
- Speaking to local groups on behalf of our chapter and birds.

We **do have the potential** to be a powerful voice for birds. Being a part of efforts that are larger than any one individual or small group is deeply gratifying. Please reach out to [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org) if you'd be interested in learning more about any of the above opportunities to be involved with our chapter and its leadership. Thank you.



### **Backyard Birdfeeding Advice: Jelly is Killing Hummingbirds!**

This piece comes from the Ohio Ornithological Society's latest *Chip Notes* newsletter. Please help spread the word that comes from the Raptor Education Group Inc. (REGI), a rehab facility in Antigo, Wisconsin.

“Over the last several decades, jelly has been a popular addition to many people’s bird feeding stations, as it attracts coveted birds like Baltimore Orioles. Since the reports from REGI, many bird advocates, including Kim Kaufman, Executive Director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) and Laura Erickson, scientist, teacher, award-winning writer and licensed wildlife rehabber have urged birders to stop putting jelly out for the birds. This is a difficult habit for some backyard bird feeders to abandon, as watching beautiful orioles come to the jelly has been a source of delight. Some backyard birders are questioning whether the Wisconsin incident was just a freak accident, and the calls for a stop to this practice are premature... New stories are emerging of other small birds getting caught in jelly left out by backyard birders... At this time of year, there are abundant sources of natural energy for our feathered friends, so the ...birds do not depend upon it.” Listen to Laura Eirckson’s Radio program/audio blog post from June 5, 2023 that calls for an end to this practice: [Jelly is killing hummingbirds! | Radio | Laura Erickson's For the Birds](#)



### **Clearing up the GAAS “Membership” Question...**

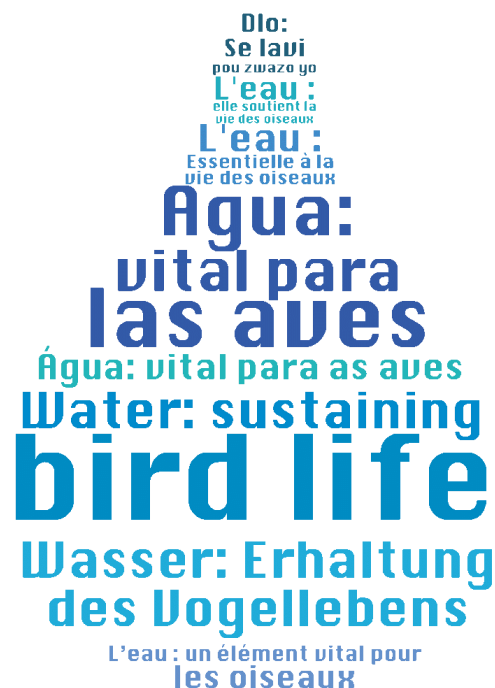
Greater Akron Audubon Society (GAAS) maintains its status as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS). When you join (pay membership to) NAS, you are automatically assigned membership in a local chapter based on your zip code. Our chapter’s service area extends from southwest Portage County to southeast Medina

County and has been mapped out visually on a Google Map (see [Map of Chapter Zipcodes - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#)). When someone first joins National (see link at bottom right on our home page: [Greater Akron Audubon Society - Home](#)), the local chapter is credited with the membership dues for the first year only. Most local chapters also collect annual membership dues in addition to National's dues but GAAS does not.

Thus, if you're a member in good standing with National, you are also considered a member of GAAS. Any official correspondence, including elections of officers, is sent only to those who are on National's membership roster. Each chapter is required to submit an annual report, for which National then designates a fixed contribution amount. We hold one fundraiser each fall in the form of the Wild Bird Seed Sale to supplement our contribution from National and donations are gladly accepted at that time. We aim to cast a wide net with respect to communications about local birding news and conservation and advocacy opportunities, so as to not exclude anyone. The public is always welcome at our monthly programs and at any bird walks or other events we participate in. Anyone who wishes to receive our enews may sign up at any time with no financial expectations. We do hope that if you see value in our efforts, you'll engage with us to be a voice for birds and conservation.

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## Water for Birds at Home



Environment for the Americas, the organization behind World Migratory Bird Days, has championed the conservation theme for 2023: *Water: Sustaining Bird Life*. In keeping with the efforts of GAAS of “how to help birds in our home spaces,” we share EFTA's tips for

### Water for Birds at Home:

“Clean, accessible water is vital to birds, including the birds that migrate through or make their home in your yard. Offering a source of water is a fun and easy way to help birds

thrive right outside your window. Anything from a plant saucer to a pond with a fountain can be attractive to birds. Here are four things to consider when adding a water feature to your backyard space.



### **Keep it safe.**

Birds are vulnerable when wet, so place your birdbath close enough to shrubs or other cover so that a bathing bird can get away easily should a predator approach.



### **Keep it low.**

A birdbath that imitates a puddle or other natural water source is more likely to attract birds. Keep the level of the water around one to two inches deep, and add some rocks to give the birds something to stand on.



### **Keep it clean.**

Regularly empty the birdbath, scrub the surface with hot water and a brush, and refill with fresh water. Algal growth can occur quickly in an unattended birdbath, and this isn't good for the birds.



### **Keep it moving.**

Nothing attracts birds like the sight and sound of moving water. Make a simple dripper by punching a pinhole in a recycled plastic jug hung above the birdbath, or install a recirculating fountain."

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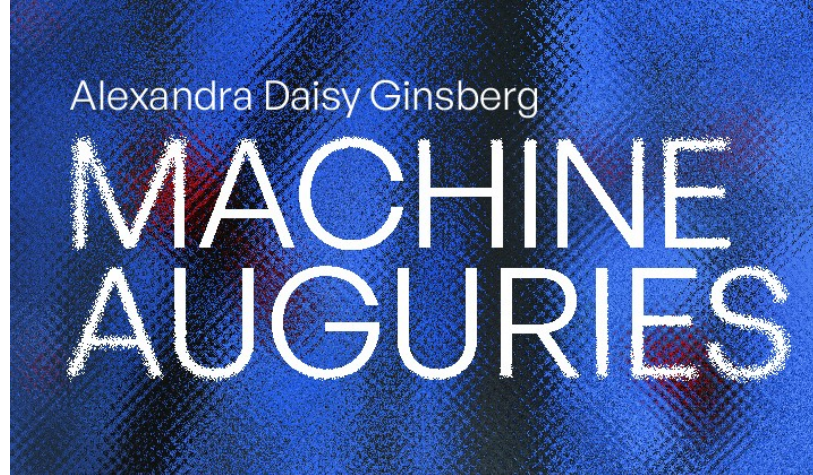
Toledo Museum of Art Exhibition:

Alexandra Daisy Ginsburg

Machine Auguries: Toledo

Through November 26, 2023

2445 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43620



English artist Alexndra Daisy Ginsberg has created an immersive art experience that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to slowly simulate an artificial dawn chorus (the *ChatGPT* of birdsong) using birdsong recorded during spring and summer of 2022 in the Toledo and northwestern Ohio area. The visual and acoustical experience was inspired by the William Blake poem, “Auguries of Innocence,” written circa 1803 and is a thought-provoking environmental call to action that focuses on the consequences of human actions that have resulted in habitat destruction and climate change. She uses interviews with Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman and Karen Bakker, researcher of digital innovation and environmental governance at the University of British Columbia, to send the message that there is urgency in protecting nature and biodiversity outside before it is lost and all that remains is an artificial, digital representation of nature that is no more real than a painting.

Learn more about the exhibit: [Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg – Machine Auguries: Toledo | The Toledo Museum of Art](#) and more about the artist: [ALEXANDRA DAISY GINSBERG](#).



Wanted: Photos of GAAS/Homegrown National Park Signs Amongst Your Native Plantings



It's now been over two years since GAAS began offering signage showing our collaboration with Homegrown National Park and we'd like to collect a display of photos

with general areas where our signs are located (without giving too much personal information – such as names or addresses). If you have a sign posted amongst your native plantings and would care to share a photo for our website, please send your digital photos to info@akronaudubon.org with your city or township noted.

Look for the next issue of ***For the Birds*** on Sunday, September 10th!

Enjoy your summer of 2023!

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

Follow us on Instagram: @akronaudubon

Find us on Facebook: @greaterakronaudubon

Greater Akron Audubon Society

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