

Vol. 2 #19
6-26-2022



Upcoming Programs and Events

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) 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](#)

And now, **Birdnote**® has issued a new podcast earlier this month in their **Bring Birds Back** series with Tenijah Hamilton. Listen as she talks with three special guests about the species, which is now entirely reliant on man-made housing. [The Past, Present, and Future of Purple Martins | BirdNote](#)

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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## Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative Webinar



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**Using New Technologies to Understand Migratory Connectivity in Eastern  
Whip-poor-wills**

**Aaron Skinner, Fullbright Student Researcher**

**Tuesday, July 26, 2022 1:00 p.m.**

(Additional information to come on OBCI site: <https://obcinet.org/resources/webinars/>)

To register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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Bird Walks

Birds at the Preserve

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Bath Nature Preserve

4160 Ira Rd Akron, OH 44333

Join Summit Metro Park naturalists and Dr. Lara Roketenetz, with the University of Akron's Martin Field Station, for an evening of birding in a variety of habitats. Bring your binoculars and bug spray.

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**Early Bird Gets the Worm**

**Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Springfield Bog Summit Metro Park**

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

Start the day off on the right foot with an early morning summer bird walk through Springfield Bog. Bug spray and binoculars may be useful.

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

**Saturday, July 16, 2022 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Howe Meadow Parking Lot South  
4040 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264**

Join volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar as he leads a bird walk in search of common nesters and newly fledged birds on a flat, unpaved, grassy area around Howe Meadow.

Binoculars are recommended.

**Saturday, July 30, 2022 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. Bring water and binoculars.

**Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Boston Mill Visitor Center  
6947 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264**

Dwight Chasar leads a bird walk on the firm, flat Towpath Trail looking for Peregrine Falcons and early fall migrants.



**Other News You Can Use**

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## Shorebird ID!

Believe it or not, shorebird migration is already upon us. And it won't be long before the peak is reached in August. A good resource for an overview of **Fall Shorebird Migration**, prepared and presented by **Kenn Kaufman**, can be found at **Black Swamp Bird Observatory's** website: <https://www.bsbo.org/timing-of-fall-shorebird-migration.html>

Other shorebird resources are now available from **The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Academy**



From plovers to peeps and beyond, become familiar with the diversity of shorebirds with this free downloadable guide! Paying attention to shape, size, and behavior goes a long way to identifying shorebirds. This helpful shorebird ID guide has full-color photos, ID tips, and a size reference chart for use at home or out in the field. You can download, print out, and bring this guide with you! [Download Shorebird ID Guide](#)

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Video



Piping Plover © Robert Dobbs/Macaulay Library

How do shorebirds find food? Shorebirds differ in the places they search for a meal, the way they grab it, and the kinds of things they eat. Watch this video of (mostly) shorebirds in action and learn how species like the Long-billed Curlew, Ruddy Turnstone, Piping Plover and others forage for food on a Louisiana barrier island. [Watch the Full Video](#)

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FAA Gives Green Light to SpaceX Activity at Boca Chica, Texas

On June 13, 2022, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that SpaceX can move ahead with the proposed Starship Super Heavy Project in Boca Chica, Texas. Read the American Bird Conservancy's news release about this decision that affects an area that "conservationists and wildlife agencies have worked for decades to conserve – the unique wetlands and thorn-scrub habitats that surround the SpaceX facility:" [SpaceX's Harm to Wildlife in Texas Set to Continue, Due to FAA Decision - American Bird Conservancy \(abcbirds.org\)](#)

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**Traveling Closer to Home this Summer?  
(You may want to check out these two items)**

***Wings Over Water 3D and 2D* at The Rangos Giant Cinema**

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# CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER

ONE OF THE FOUR CARNEGIE MUSEUMS OF PITTSBURGH

One Allegheny Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Showing Daily through August 31, 2022

(Tickets are being sold up to four weeks in advance.)



***Wings Over Water***, a bird film approximately 45 minutes long, tells the compelling story of three amazing species—the Sandhill Crane, the Yellow Warbler and the Mallard Duck. The film narrated by Michael Keaton, showcases the migrating birds and their fascinating behaviors through triumphs and challenges as they defy all odds.

Ducks Unlimited partnered with Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation and Audubon to produce ***Wings Over Water***, an IMAX Film targeting a broad audience to raise awareness and encourage conservation and restoration of resilient and

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rich habitats for generations to come. For more information about the science center and the film and advance purchase of tickets: [Wings Over Water 3D and 2D - Carnegie Science Center](#)

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**Exhibition by Internationally Renowned Artist Thomas Dambo:
*"The Troll that Hatched an Egg"***

**Aullwood Audubon Nature Center
1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, OH 45414
Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
and Sundays from 1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(Closed Mondays)**



Bibbi from "The Troll That Hatched an Egg", December 2021. Photo: Aullwood Audubon / Ken Fasimpaur

Aullwood Audubon is part of Audubon Great Lakes, a regional office of the National

Audubon Society; it is a 200-acre nature sanctuary and educational farm in Dayton Ohio and consists of three areas -- the Nature Center, Farm Discovery Center and Sanctuary Habitats and trails. The exhibit of giant trolls by internationally renowned artist Thomas Dambo is one of only nine Dambo-created exhibitions in the United States and Puerto Rico. Dambo is from Copenhagen, Denmark and is the world's leading recycle artist. The permanent exhibit was created especially for Aullwood Audubon and opened to the public last November. These wooden structures will not, of course, last forever but are expected to remain intact for at least 5 years. Thomas expects that the trolls will eventually return to the earth from whence they came! Birds, nature, ecosystems and conservation are all central to Aullwood Audubon's mission, which is reflected in the trolls' story. "The exhibition also pays tribute to Dayton's place in the history of aviation and the wonder of so many children who see birds (and airplanes) fly for the first time. In fact, the Wright Brothers studied the flight of birds as they worked to design the first airplane. It makes sense that a young troll would also choose birds as her teachers." The three trolls and a giant-sized troll nest are located throughout Aullwood's nature sanctuary and farm as part of the whimsical exhibit that accompany the back story. Admission to Aullwood is free for National Audubon Society members. For more information about Aullwood, the artist, or the exhibit, please see [The Troll That Hatched an Egg: An Exhibition by Thomas Dambo | Aullwood Audubon](#).



New Senate Legislation Will Help Protect Migrating Great Lakes Birds When They're Abroad

Increased U.S. funding through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act will benefit more than 350 bird species



Scarlet Tanager. Photo: Daniel Behm/Audubon Photography Awards

On May 12, 2022, U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) introduced legislation to enhance the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), a conservation program that has benefitted 4.5 million acres of habitat across the hemisphere for the more than 350 neotropical bird species that breed in the United States and Canada and spend the winter in Latin American and Caribbean countries. “Since 2000, the U.S. has invested more than \$80 million, which has sparked an additional \$310 million in matching funds from public-private partnerships. Together, these funds have supported 658 projects in 36 Latin American and Caribbean countries and 40 U.S. states and territories, and provinces and territories across Canada. ...The Neotropical Migratory Bird Enhancement Act would triple the investment the program makes in on-the-ground habitat protection and restoration, education, and research, and will ensure that funds are at least doubled by other governments and partners.” Read more of the press release here: [New Legislation Will Help Bring Birds Back Across the Western Hemisphere |](#)

[Audubon](#)

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**Are You Interested in Participating in Lights Out Akron-Canton?**

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[Ohio Lights Out](#) is coordinated through the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OCBI), a collaboration of non-profit groups, businesses, state and federal government agencies, and citizens working to advance bird conservation efforts. Matthew Shumar is the Program Coordinator for OCBI and he oversees the Ohio Lights Out program. Currently, there are six metropolitan areas participating: Akron-Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Miami Valley and Toledo. In addition, Youngstown has two federal buildings that participate.



The Akron-Canton effort began in 2018 and is spearheaded by the Akron Zoo and Shane Good, Senior Director of Animal Care. Shane had indicated earlier this spring that due to unexpected circumstances this spring, they had been unable to have new volunteer training sessions for the spring migration season. But they are getting ready for fall migration (August 15 – October 31) and are looking forward to scheduling a volunteer training in July in order to be ready to go in August. The training “would probably be after work here at the zoo on a week night.” Shane asks anyone interested in being part of the **Lights Out Akron** volunteer crew to contact him directly at [s.good@akronzoo.org](mailto:s.good@akronzoo.org). Before scheduling the training, he asks for input from those interested by letting him know of preferable nights of the week and any dates that should be avoided.

What does a Lights Out volunteer actually **do**? They walk the downtown area streets along

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pre-assigned routes in the early morning hours to help collect injured and deceased birds from the ground during peak migration months (from the middle of March to late May, and from mid-August through end of October). Any live birds will need to be transported to a rehab facility for care and treatment. All deceased birds will be identified and data collected with respect to where and when they were found so that data can be used to inform local building management and state coordinators.

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The Recovering America's Wildlife Act Moves Closer to Passing Congress



Black Tern. Photo: David Fuller

The legislation that was introduced last year by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), alongside Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and a broad group of bipartisan supporters **passed** the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. In April, a version of the bill passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. It's now up to the Senate to pass their version. Let's keep the momentum going by asking our Senators to support Recovering America's Wildlife Act to help thousands of wildlife species, including more than 800 bird species, and prevent future extinctions. Sen. Portman is already a co-sponsor. [Audubon Action Alert: Help SAVE](#)



Remembering the Late Victor Fazio III

Many reading this eNews may not recognize the name, but the Ohio birding community would not be what it is today without the input of such a distinguished ornithologist and entomologist who recently passed away on June 10, 2022 at age 60 in Australia. Vic was the sole reviewer (there are now 45 reviewers) for Ohio **eBird** observations (2005 – 2016) before he returned to his native New South Wales, Australia in 2016. Twenty-six years of his life as a field ornithologist were devoted to the recovery of the federally-endangered Black-capped Vireo in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma. He taught Ornithology at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, OH but returned to work as a full-time ornithological consultant in 2001. Since 2004, he co-authored the seasonal review for the American Birding Association's publication of ornithological record, "*North American Birds...of the Eastern Highland and Upper Ohio Valley*" (OH-PA-WV). He served six years on the Ohio Birds Records Committee and then joined the Oklahoma Birds Records Committee in 2006. He described himself as a "wildlife biologist with a camera ... not a photographer. My principal purpose...is documentation."

Upon his return to Australia, he turned to documenting his observations using **iNaturalist** (<https://www.inaturalist.org/users/13444%C2%A0>) and assumed a new personal challenge of discovering and identifying moths, although his flickr account (https://www.flickr.com/people/victor_fazio-iii/) may indicate otherwise. His ongoing current research involved micromoths and was in collaboration with Dr. Jason Dombroskie of Cornell University. He often returned to Ohio in the summers and attended conferences and scientific symposia, where his mere presence loomed large to those who didn't know him personally. Local Summit County birder and moth-er Brian Tinker recently posted this tribute to Vic on the iNat Forum: [RIP Vic Fazio, long-time contributor and ornithologist, entomologist - Nature Talk - iNaturalist Community Forum](#)



Helping Birds at Home!



Window imprint from bird collision. Photos by David Fancher

This past year, our chapter's efforts have focused on things anyone can choose to do to help our endemic and migratory birds in their home spaces. Have a look at the resource page on the GAAS website that highlights various ways anyone can choose to make a difference for birds' continued survival: [Helping Birds at Home – Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). Because there was emphasis on preventing window collisions with commercial buildings (Sherwin-Williams new headquarters in downtown Cleveland, for example), we also decided to take up the role that *residential* windows play in bird collisions, not only during spring and fall migration, but throughout the year. According to the American Bird Conservancy, Smithsonian researchers have estimated that homes and other buildings one to three stories tall accounted for 44 percent of all bird fatalities, about 253 million bird deaths annually! And ABC estimates these numbers are conservative. These numbers are stunning! This means that the only anthropogenic (human-caused) threat that kills more birds in the United States each year is domestic cats! And these losses are **preventable!** To that end, we have purchased *Feather Friendly DIY window tape* that can be applied on the exterior of residential windows in a recommended 2" x 2" grid. The product has a life expectancy of 8 to 12 years and has been proven to be effective. We will have the tape available (*at no charge*) at tabling events and to chapter members upon request to info@akronaudubon.org. Another option to be considered may be to draw vertical lines at **2-inch intervals** using a write-on-glass white marking pen. See this video for more information: [Incredibly simple tip to prevent birds flying into window - YouTube](#)

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## **Akron Audubon 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, currently on the second Tuesday evening of each month, **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](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org).

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June 30, 2022 concludes our chapter's fiscal and program year and leadership takes a short hiatus in July and August. Look for the next issue of this eNews in your Inbox on **September 11, 2022**.

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 and events, please visit the ***Northeast Ohio Bird Calendar***, hosted by Kirtland Bird Club: [CALENDAR \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](https://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org)

Note: A chronologic listing of past GAAS program pages with speaker bios and topics can be found by going to the GAAS Website (<https://www.akronaudubon.org>) Under the **Participate** tab, find **Meetings** and click on **Meeting Archives** (<https://www.akronaudubon.org/meeting-archives.html>). If a meeting was recorded and is available for watching, there

will be a <Recording> button that can be selected to link to the recording on YouTube.

Please direct questions or comments to info@akronaudubon.org

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