



Upcoming Programs and Events

Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 program year at Greater Akron Audubon Society! Our programs for the upcoming season are listed on the reverse side of the 2023 Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale Order Form that should soon be appearing in your USPS mailbox if you are a member of National Audubon Society or if you've ordered seed from us in the past. A similar order form is also available on the GAAS website: [Greater Akron Audubon Society annual wild bird seed sale](#) and the programs for the season can be found here: [Chapter Meetings - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). In order to reach audiences throughout our chapter's service area, the meeting venues will change throughout the year. Our September and October 2023 programs will both be at the UA Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve.

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Virtual Learning Series

Tom Stephenson presenting

The Warbler Guide: Overlooked ID Points for Fall Warblers

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 7:00 p.m.



Many warbler species, after breeding, adopt a more cryptic plumage that probably helps them survive in their real home in the tropics. This talk will discuss a range of strategies for identifying warblers that, in the Fall, look more similar to other species. Tom will cover looking at overall contrast, undertail patterns, facial patterns and wing patterns that all help to make identifying our Fall warblers as easy as it is in the Spring! ***Birds At Home*** presentations are FREE for BSBO members and Ohio Young Birders Club students and chapter advisors.

For non-members, presentations are \$5. Register here: [Birds at Home: THE WARBLER GUIDE - Overlooked ID Points for Fall Warblers Tickets, Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Freshwater Science: Do Islands Help Birds Migrate Across Lake Erie?

(Webinar) Wednesday, September 13, 2023

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Many migratory songbirds cross Lake Erie during their nocturnal migrations. However, it's uncertain how the topography of the island archipelago in the central-western basin of the lake might influence the flight paths of these migratory birds.

Dr. Verner Bingman from Bowling Green State University has been investigating how nocturnally migrating songbirds use the islands as visual guideposts to maintain preferred flight directions, compensate for the negative effects of wind drift and potentially serve as landing refuge as birds end their migration on a given night.

The webinar from the **Ohio Sea Grant** is free, but registration is required to receive log-in information. For more information, including a registration link, see [Freshwater Science: Do Islands Help Birds Migrate Across Lake Erie? | Ohio Sea Grant \(osu.edu\)](#)



Migration Celebration 2023

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is hosting a series of free webinars to mark the incredible southward journey of billions of birds. Register for the webinars and discover resources and fun activities for the migration season on the Migration Celebration website: [Migration Celebration 2023 | Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#). Click on the titles below for more in-depth descriptions of the webinars and registration information.



Blue-winged Teal by Sharif Uddin/Macaulay Library

Webinar Schedule

[Shedding Light on Protecting Birds](#)

Wednesday, September 13, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Migration season is a precarious time for birds. Our panel of experts will share insights from their research and how their work helps us understand how we can better protect

birds.

[Merlin Bird ID Trivia: Fall Migration Edition](#)

Thursday, September 14, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Join us for a bird identification trivia game! The [Merlin Bird ID app](#), developed by the Cornell Lab and powered by machine learning, will be put to the test. Can the app outperform an experienced birder and you, our live audience?

[Exploring Bird Migration: Your Questions Answered](#)

Tuesday, September 19, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what triggers migration, how birds navigate, or the challenges they encounter? Join us for a Q&A featuring the expertise of ornithologist [Dr. Kevin J. McGowan](#). Submit questions in advance when you register or live during the webinar.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Fall Bird Census

Saturday, September 16, 2023

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, OH 44141



Cuyahoga Valley National Park's diversity of habitats attracts many migrating songbirds, making the fall census exciting. All are welcome. Walking conditions vary by location. Meet at park headquarters at 7:30 a.m. to be assigned an area.

You are invited to comment on two

Cuyahoga Valley National Park interpretive & education projects

Monday, September 18, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Hines Hill Conference Center

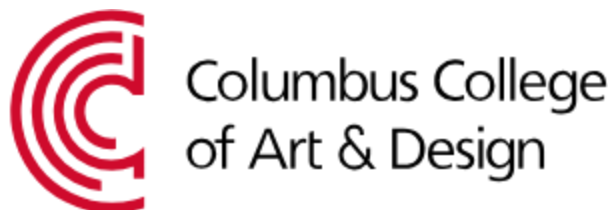
1403 West Hines Hill Road, Peninsula 44264



Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Education, Interpretation & Visitor Services needs your input on two important interpretive and education projects. The first is a major update to the interpretive themes that guide their programs, exhibits, website, social media, and publications. They've drafted a **new overview of the national park's main story as well as its supporting stories** in preparation for CVNP's 50th anniversary in 2025 and the America 250th anniversary in 2026.

The second project is a **plan to replace the outdoor exhibits at Brandywine Falls, Ledges, Octagon, and Kendall Lake**. These exhibits will reflect the new interpretive themes, create new arrival areas at Brandywine Falls and Ledges, and anticipate a proposed new wheelchair-accessible Ledges Overlook Trail. Come learn more and help shape the park's future.

Two open house sessions will be available to voice comments. Please allow at least one hour to attend. Walk up the path and enter the large building on your right. The building is not wheelchair accessible. Contact arrye_rosser@nps.gov if you can't attend but want to review the materials. Also, please feel free to bring others with you who you think might be interested in these projects. Your input on these important projects is appreciated.



BIRDS INSPIRE 2023

September 21 – 24, 2023

390 East Broad Street or 60 Cleveland Ave.

Columbus, OH 43215

(venue varies by event)

What is *Birds Inspire*?

Birds Inspire is an irreverent romp into the ways birds inspire all kinds of creativity. Talks, interactive experiences and an exhibition will connect Photographers, Comic Artists, Illustrators, Naturalists, Community Organizers, Conservationists, and Kids of all ages. Held on the historic campus of Columbus College of Art & Design, anyone and everyone who appreciates birds are encouraged to pick a topic and attend a session (or two!) All events are free and open to the public. Guests are asked to register on Eventbrite. For more details, see [Birds Inspire 2023 \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com). Check out this line-up: **Julie**

Zickefoose, Keynote, Sept 21st; **Rosemary Mosco**, Comics Writing Workshop, Sept 21st; **Charlotte Belland**, Event Organizer, with **Manon VanSchoyck**, Bird Ambassador Sketch Session Sept 22nd; **Nicole Jackson**, The Joy of Birding & Nature, Sept 22nd; **The Inept Birder**, Gallery Show and Reception, Sept 22nd; **Maris Wicks**, Draw Along, Sept 23rd

First GAAS Program of the 2023 – 2024 Season

Counting Roosting Chimney Swifts: Ups, Downs, Vagaries, and Disparities

Dwight Chasar

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:00 p.m.

The University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve

4160 Ira Rd, Akron, OH 44333

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



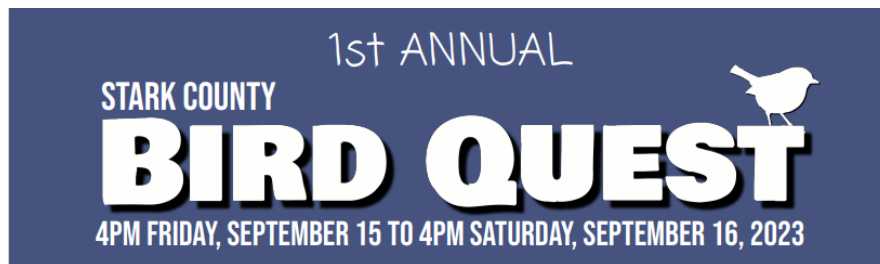
After 10 – 12 years of watching and often counting Chimney Swifts entering various large chimneys to roost for the night after breeding is over and during fall migration, doing so without using any planned scientific method, we decided to look at our eBird archived data from these counts to determine whether anything we observed could be analyzed, interpreted or construed such that these data might contribute something, if anything, to

the scientific literature. Issues, both positive and negative during these counts, and conclusions from the data analysis will be discussed and drawn, as simple as they may be.

Bird Walks/Field Trips

Ned DeLamatre is planning a bird walk/trip to **Mentor Headlands** on Thursday, September 14th to see migrating fall warblers with a lunch stop at Brennan's Fish House in Grand River. Get in touch with Ned for possible carpooling and more details if you'd like to join a small group birding on Lake Erie: ndelamatre@gmail.com.

From Canton Audubon Society



For all the details, please see the web page, [Stark County Bird Quest | Canton Audubon Society \(Canton, Ohio\)](#). In conjunction with the event, there will be three guided bird walks (shown below), each of which you are asked to RSVP for.

Guided Walks during Bird Quest

Friday, September 15, 2023 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Location: **Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center**. Record your first species of birds for Bird Quest with a guided walk. Indoor observation available if the weather is inclement. Meet in the Visitors Center. Bring binoculars or borrow limited supply from the nature center.

RSVP: [\(330\) 823-7487](tel:330-823-7487) or naturecenter@mountunion.edu

Friday, September 15, 2023 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: **Quail Hollow Park**. Take an evening hike in hopes of seeing/hearing late-day birds like owls. Dress appropriately for weather conditions and rugged trails. Bring a flashlight for when the sun goes down. Meet in the lower lot adjacent to the playground.

Bring binoculars. RSVP: [\(330\) 823-7487](tel:330-823-7487) or naturecenter@mountunion.edu

Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: **The Wilderness Center**. Join TWC for an early birds guided hike. Bring binoculars. RSVP: [Click here to RSVP for the Hike](#)

News You Can Use

Black Swamp Observatory Nets Oldest Documented Eastern Wood-Pewee

Black Swamp Bird Observatory actively participates in a program called MAPS, or Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, which focuses on breeding birds. MAPS, coordinated by the Institute for Bird Populations, is a continent-wide banding scheme where stations throughout the country all follow the same protocol to collect data on the birds that breed in their area. The breeding season is separated into ten-day periods, and banding occurs on one day during each of those periods. BSBO runs two MAPS stations: one at the BSBO office in Magee Marsh and one in Oak Openings Preserve Metropark.

BSBO's most exciting bird this summer, perhaps, was a return Eastern Wood-Pewee (EAWP). From their most recent news: "We hear EAWPs singing their heads off every week at Oaks, but this was the first (and only) that we'd had in the nets. And boy, was it a doozy! 'It's just a wood-pewee,' you say, 'What's so interesting about that?' Well, it's neat partly because we just don't get that many recaptured or return flycatchers. Secondly, this particular bird was banded as an after-hatching-year (AHY) in 2014, making it at least 10 years old and setting a new longevity record for the species! This is actually the second longevity record that has come from Oaks, the first being a 10-year-old Blue Grosbeak back in 2017.

Advocacy Opportunities:

Take Action to Protect the Great Lakes



Marsh birds like Pied-billed Grebes require high quality wetlands to thrive in the Great Lakes.

As part of the Audubon Great Lakes (AGL) region, our chapter participates in monthly meetings that brief us on actions that we all can take to support the conservation goals of our organization. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support and fund efforts that address the biggest climate threats to the Great Lakes, guiding billions of dollars to coastal wetland restoration and conservation. Every five years the EPA creates a five-year GLRI Action Plan and it is now looking for public input to help guide the restoration efforts for 2025 through 2029 in the GLRI Action Plan IV. AGL staff have created a fresh action alert urging the EPA to take action to make birds and wildlife a priority. They need our voices: [Audubon Alert: Take Action to Protect the Great Lakes | National Audubon Society](#).

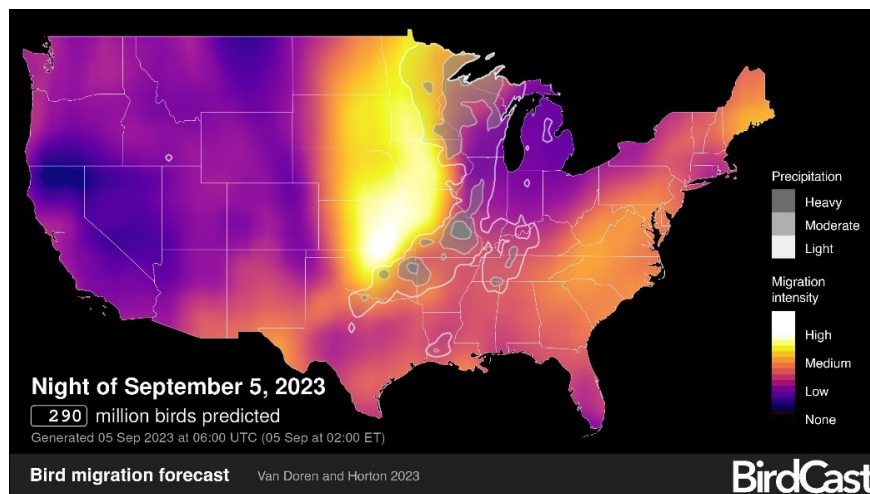
Help Stop Fracking in our Ohio State Parks

A new state law (H.B. 507) is now in effect requiring Ohio's state parks and public lands to be leased to oil and gas industry for fracking. Applications are underway with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Oil and Gas Land Management Commission (OGLMC) to frack at sites including Salt Fork State Park, Wolf Run State Park and Zepernick and Valley Run wildlife areas in eastern Ohio ([Nominations – Save Ohio Parks](#)). Fracking essentially pollutes the air and water, destroys the environment and accelerates climate change. These operations release greenhouse gases, including methane gas, into the air that contribute to rising temperatures and accelerate climate change. Fracking also requires from one to ten millions of gallons of fresh water per fracked well to be drained from rivers, lakes and streams – water that is effectively taken from the drinking water supply forever. Proprietary toxic chemicals are used during the water extraction part of the fracking process and these chemicals are unregulated by the state of Ohio and the federal government. These chemicals include benzene and PFAs, which have been found in injection storage sites in Athens County, Ohio. PFAs are linked to birth defects and cancers, among other health issues.

An Ohio group called **Save Ohio Parks** has recently been in touch with Ohio Audubon chapters and is asking us to educate ourselves as birders and to write emails to the OGLMC asking commissioners to deny fracking in and under Ohio state parks and public lands. They have a website ([Save Ohio Parks – No fracking on public lands](#)) that has detailed information on fracking and includes newer scientific research and reports. The deadline to request that fracking be denied at Salt Fork State Park is September 25th. Emails should be sent to Commission.Clerk@oglmc.ohio.gov.

“To say nothing is saying something. You must denounce things you are against or one might believe that you support things you really do not.” -- Germany Kent

Use BirdCast to Inform during Fall Migration



Example of BirdCast screen shot showing forecast for bird migration

BirdCast is not new this year but this is a reminder to use this free interactive website to inform your birding and vigilance in window protection (such as drawing blinds or curtains during times when heavy migratory traffic is expected). The joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Colorado State University, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, uses a combination of machine learning, cloud-based computing, big data analytics, and data from the National Weather Service’s 160 Doppler radar stations to predict bird movements across the continent. Use the Migration Dashboard to see how many birds flew over your county last night and what speed, direction and altitude they were flying at over the course of the night time hours. Other tools include local bird migration alerts, and live migration maps. Use these amazing, powerful tools now through the end of fall migration (November 15th): [BirdCast - Bird migration forecasts in real-time](#).



The Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition is a coalition of local, state, and regional advocates working together to establish Great Lakes restoration and protection as a national conservation priority. This year, their conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on October 12 – 13, and will bring people together from the eight-state region to focus on seven priority areas that range from habitat destruction to environmental injustice.

Organizations such as National Wildlife Federation, Audubon Great Lakes, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and the Ohio Environmental Council are sponsors of the event and field trips will include areas in Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. For more information about the Coalition, see their website: [What We Do — Healthy Lakes](#)

**2023 Ohio Avian Research Conference to be held at Grange Insurance
Audubon Center October 14, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**



The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) has announced that the full-day event will include an optional field trip, a full day of scientific presentations, and a keynote presentation by Dr. Nathan W. Cooper, Research Ecologist with the Migratory Bird Center at Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.

Dr. Cooper will present his research on the Kirtland's Warbler. Over the past few decades, Kirtland's Warblers have undergone a remarkable recovery, from just 167 males in the world in 1987 to more than 2,200 males today. In addition to having a compelling conservation story, its small population size and restricted breeding and winter ranges provide a truly unique opportunity to learn more about the fascinating and interconnected annual cycles of songbirds. Cooper's program will explore the annual cycle of the Kirtland's Warbler and share what has been learned from this rare species. Registration deadline is September 30, 2023 and more details can be found at [Ohio Avian Research Conference — National Audubon Society](#).

Thank you...

to all who submitted photos of their native plantings showing the Homegrown National Park signs. See the submittals on the GAAS website: [Local Sites - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). It's still not too late and now may be a great time to show off your native patch and your support for Akron Audubon and the HNP effort in your community. Please continue to send your digital photos to info@akronaudubon.org with your city or township and initials noted.



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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](#).

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

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