

Vol. 4 #2
9-24-2023



Upcoming Programs and Events

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.

Art Exhibit: *Field Marks*

John Guy Petruzzi

Through October 1, 2023

Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Weller Gallery located inside the Davis Center at Fellows
Riverside Gardens**

123 McKinley Ave.

Youngstown, OH 44509



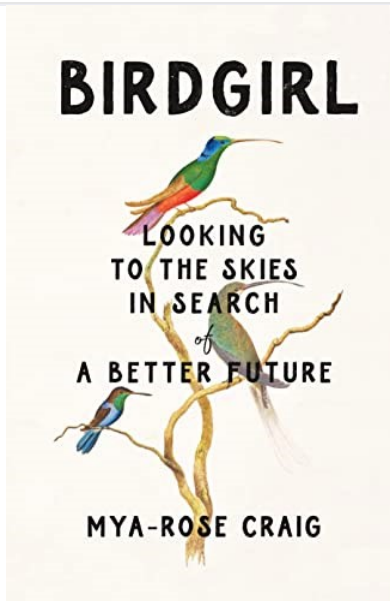
This free exhibit features bird photography and paints using watercolor/acrylic. “My artwork parallels ideas of rarity between the evolution of species, the creation of art, and the advancement of technology. Within the context of an ongoing Holocene mass extinction, I examine the meaning of these values through a ‘symbology’ informed by natural history, digital media, and field experience in nature, says artist, John Guy Petruzzi.”

Read more about the artist and his work: [Current & Upcoming Exhibits – Mill Creek MetroParks](#)

Environment for the Americas Bird Book Club (Virtual)

Birdgirl: Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future

Mya-Rose Craig



From EFTA Bird Book Club website:

Mya-Rose is a British-Bangladeshi birder, environmentalist and activist otherwise known as “Birdgirl.” In her words: “Birdwatching has never felt like a hobby, or a pastime I can pick up and put down, but a thread running through the pattern of my life, so tightly woven in that there’s no way of pulling it free and leaving the rest of my life intact.”

Birdgirl follows Mya-Rose and her family as they travel the world in search of rare birds and astonishing landscapes. But a shadow moves with them, too—her mother’s deepening mental health crisis. In the face of this struggle, the Craigs turn to nature again and again for comfort and meaning.

Each bird they see brings a moment of joy and reflection, instilling in Mya-Rose a deep love of the natural world. But Mya-Rose has also seen first-hand the reckless destruction we are inflicting on our fragile planet, as well as the pervasive racism infecting every corner of the world, leading her to campaign for Black, Indigenous, people of color. Meet Mya-Rose during this free discussion but please register in advance: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Prairie Seed Collecting Event

Guy Denny’s Prairie

Saturday, October 7, 2023

10:00 a.m.

6021 Mt. Gilead Road (SR95) Fredericktown, OH 43019



Photo Courtesy of Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association

This "free to the public event" takes place at Denny's Tallgrass Prairie which is a 20-plus acre prairie located in Knox County about 45 minutes north of Columbus. Collect seeds of prairie plants for your garden with the help of guides. Here is your chance to try your hand at growing native prairie plants. Visitors to the free Saturday event may collect all the seeds they want from Denny's Tallgrass Prairie and learn how to establish their own prairie gardens. Several prairie specialists will be on hand to answer questions and help identify various species of prairie plants.

Participants should bring hand pruners, and containers such as paper bags in which they can deposit and label the seeds they collect. Registration is not required.

Bird Walks

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Saturday, October 7, 2023

8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Ira Trailhead

3801 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264



Volunteer naturalist Dwight Chasar will lead a bird walk in search of migrating birds in a beaver wetland. This 2-mile walk on the firm, flat Towpath Trail is wheelchair accessible.

News You Can Use

A note from GAAS President, Sherilyn Burns

I wish to inform all members and friends of Greater Akron Audubon Society that this program year (September 2023 – June 2024) will be my final year as president of our local chapter. After four years leading our group through the pandemic and into many other initiatives, I feel the time is appropriate for others to carry on with the mission of protecting birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Conservation, educational outreach and advocacy have been the cornerstones of efforts we've engaged in during the past three years. A very small, dedicated group of volunteer members have kept our grass-roots group functional and able to collaborate with other like-minded groups to be a voice for nature and birds.

We'll be celebrating 90 years as a chapter in April 2024 and the next ten years offer great opportunity, at a most crucial time, to be the voice for birds. Birds need our help more than ever! Our leadership team members are all engaged volunteers who share their skillsets, time and energies to the extent that they are able. **But we need help!** We invite all who may be interested in seeing the chapter reach a Centennial anniversary to please come join us **now** so that they may become familiarized with chapter operations and collaborative efforts for "on-the-job" preparation.

It's been my pleasure to connect our chapter to various local, state, regional and national groups who share our basic missions of re-establishing biodiversity, increasing diversity and inclusivity in our membership ranks, creating educational outreach opportunities for young and old, studying our migratory birds in their full lifecycles, and advocating for their needs as climate change advances. I've been the person who brings you this bi-weekly e-news (with the help of Paul Moser and Wolfgang Pelz) because I've believed the chapter needed more regular communication. However, that communication has not afforded our group any additional engaged volunteers. For personal reasons, I must step away from the daily operations of the chapter next year, which will end four years of keeping GAAS afloat. My inspiration during tenure as president has been the quote from *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess: "*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.*" Won't a like-minded someone throw us a lifeline? Please reach out to

info@akronaudubon.org

American Flamingos Observed in Ohio for First Time



American Flamingo Photo: George Keller© Macaulay Library

Two vagrant American Flamingos found their way to southwest Ohio on Friday, September 1st. George Keller reported an adult female and a juvenile on eBird at 12:15 p.m. at Caesar Creek State Park in Waynesville (Warren County), Ohio. Many Ohio birders were able to see the birds before they flew away about 6:00 p.m. and were never relocated. The birds were two of about 150 wayward flamingos to be observed in the U.S. in the days after the hurricane Idalia. Other states that reported sightings included Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Ohio River area on the Indiana-Kentucky border, North and South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Texas. Some of the birds had been tagged and were from the Yucatán peninsula in Mexico and from Cuba. Nate Swick with American Birding Association suggested to NPR that, “They may have been hit by Idalia when traveling from Yucatán to Cuba and... got caught up in the storm and just kind of went with it. They kind of hung around there for a little while, and then eventually started making their way back.”

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## American Bird Conservancy’s Quest to Ban Neonicotinoids Continues



In June, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) released a new detailed report, ***Neonicotinoid insecticides: Failing to come to grips with a predictable environmental disaster*** ([2023-Neonic-Report.pdf \(abcbirds.org\)](https://www.abcbirds.org/2023-Neonic-Report.pdf)). Ten years earlier, ABC had issued “a ground-breaking report, ***The Impact of the Nation’s Most Widely Used Insecticides on Birds*** (Mineau and Palmer 2013) outlining the risks that this new class of mobile and persistent insecticides placed on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and

the likely ripple effects on the wildlife species that depend on these ecosystems, notably birds. At the time, most of the controversy surrounding this class of products concerned honey bee mortality incidents and the potential for neonicotinoids to interfere with crop pollination. Despite their recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), these insecticides go unregulated and decline in the insect populations continues. “The European Union (EU) has taken major steps in banning outdoor uses of neonics and, more recently the emergency uses of neonics were overturned in a court, fully banning their use. Canadian provinces have taken a more surgical approach recently by requiring specific prescriptions for neonic use on corn seed, leading to a massive decline in their use...Yet neonicotinoids continue to be mostly unregulated in the U.S. and are used at a scale not seen since the introduction of DDT.”

“While the EPA is certainly taking great strides in addressing the presented issues, their efforts are not moving at a pace sufficient to fully mitigate the effects of neonicotinoids on wildlife and ecosystems. Furthermore, until pesticide-coated seeds are reclassified as pesticides and removed from FIFRA exemption, there can be no hope of adequately addressing the risks posed by all uses of neonicotinoids.”

In July, ABC offered a webinar about the new report that was presented by the authors Hardy Kern (Director of the Pesticides and Birds Campaign at ABC) and Dr. Pierre Mineau, world-renowned ecotoxicologist. Amy van Saun, Senior attorney with the Center for Food Safety also presented a segment and entered the discussion. Watch the webinar and/or follow the transcript here: [Seeds, Sprays, and So Much More: How Neonicotinoid Insecticides are Impacting Birds - YouTube](#). ABC is the only bird conservation group with staff dedicated to reducing pesticides! Take action: [Help Empower Communities and Save Birds from Toxic Pesticides \(abcbirds.org\)](#).

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### **Short Video:**

#### **Ask Smithsonian: How to Identify a Bird from a Single Feather**

Carla Dove, ornithologist at the National Museum of Natural History, explains how she matches a single feather to a bird species and why she does it. [How to Identify a Bird From a Single Feather Smithsonian Magazine](#)

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### **National Audubon Leading Charge to Upgrade the U.S. Transmission Grid**





Great Egrets around transmission lines in Burnham Prairie, near Chicago, Illinois. Photo: Camilla Cerea/Audubon

Citing an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to act urgently to slow the rate of global temperature rise, National Audubon has recently issued a report that calls for the power transmission grid to be “significantly upgraded so as to safely and effectively connect renewable sources of energy required for a clean energy future,” says Marshal Johnson, Chief Conservation Officer for National Audubon Society. While advocating for birds, he stressed the importance of having National Audubon involved in the process so that “new transmission infrastructure [can be] built in a way that maximizes clean energy development while minimizing negative impacts on birds, wildlife, and people. How and where new transmission is constructed will have a tremendous impact on birds and our communities.” Connecting clean energy and moving it long distances from its source to the population centers that use it will require double or triple the transmission capacity of the the current transmission grid.

In its new report, ***Birds and Transmission: Building the Grid Birds Need***, National Audubon “recognizes the imperative that the U.S. transition to clean energy as quickly as possible, with the goal of reaching 100% clean energy by 2040. The timeline is urgent and a rapid deployment of transmission is necessary to be able to scale up clean energy capacity in the U.S. and meet our emission reduction goals. Doing this well will require finding equitable, bird-friendly, and environmentally sound ways to significantly speed the deployment of transmission infrastructure. We have to move faster to prevent the worst impacts of climate change on people and birds.” In a map that overlays important bird areas with areas that are important for energy transmission, Audubon found that 33% of existing and planned transmission and 27% of planned and potential transmission coincide with priority areas for birds. The full report can be found here:

[BirdsAndTransmissionReport.pdf \(audubon.org\)](#)

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# Wild Ones Shares a Common Purpose with GAAS and Homegrown National Park



Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization that promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. They recognize the importance of diversity in both nature and society and recognize that it increases the health of our local ecosystems by preserving the native flora and fauna. Currently, there are over 100 chapters in 27 states. The Greater Cleveland chapter is a new chapter serving northeastern Ohio and they invite anyone interested to learn more about the group and their projects to help shape the chapter as it gets established.

They invite us to join them in their mission of establishing the **Northeast Ohio Native Habitat Corridor** to support birds and pollinators while connecting communities.

Community efforts can influence neighborhood landscaping norms and provide people with gardening advice and support. Neighborhood efforts can create connectivity for native flora and fauna. A neighborhood full of native gardens is greater than the sum of its parts, and together, several gardens can support species with greater habitat needs. Native gardens can also create corridors between larger natural areas, allowing creatures like birds, reptiles, insects, and amphibians to move and migrate.



## Wild Ones Greater Cleveland Links

Chapter Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wildonesgreatercleveland/>

Chapter Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wildonesgreatercleveland/>

Chapter YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@WildOnesGreaterCleveland/>

Chapter Email: [WildOnesGreaterCleveland@gmail.com](mailto:WildOnesGreaterCleveland@gmail.com)

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**Birds of a Feather:**

**The Smithsonian and OHC Natural History Collections**

**Secrets of the past unraveled using collaborative research in ornithology,  
archaeology, and natural history**



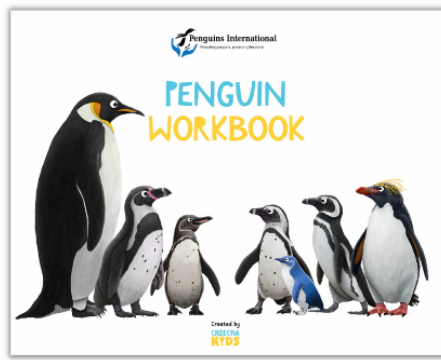
The following story was published in July 2023 by the Ohio History Connection. The recent decision by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee to include Ohio's Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as their 25<sup>th</sup> addition to the World Heritage List makes the story even more timely. Who was Alexander Wetmore and what was his connection to birds in Ohio? Dave Dyer, Natural History Curator, and Marie Swartz, Archaeology Curator at Ohio History Connection each share their roles in learning about how birds extirpated from Ohio were identified at five archaeological sites located in Ohio. Read the fascinating accounts of how several bird species, including the now-extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the Passenger Pigeon and the Carolina Parakeet were identified at these Ohio archaeological sites: [Ohio History Connection Natural History Blog](#)

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**Free Download from EFTA: Penguin Workbook**

[Environment for the Americas](#) has teamed up with [Penguins International](#) to bring you an exciting new penguin workbook! [Click here](#) to discover this FREE downloadable digital workbook that introduces the world of penguins to students and kids of all ages.

And don't forget to explore their [entire collection](#) of free digital downloads for World Migratory Bird Day—coming up on Saturday, October 14th



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 \(kirtlandbirdclub.org\)](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 *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

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