Vol. 7 #1
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Greater Akron Audubon Society FOR THE BIRDS

Upcoming Programs and Events

Sandhill Cranes at Sandy Ridge. Credit: PHOTO BY LINDA MITCHELL

Conquering the Ohio January 100

Speaker: Tyler McClain

Date: September 16, 2026 at 7pm

Location:

F A Seiberling Nature Realm

1828 Smith Road

Akron OH 44313

Biography:

Tyler McClain is from the small town of Sycamore, Ohio. Ever since he was 7 years old he has assisted with bird banding projects that have taken him all over the state of Ohio. After finishing high school he attended the University of Toledo where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies. After graduation, he moved to North East Ohio where he worked as a Naturalist for Cleveland Metroparks and Lorain County Metroparks. Tyler now works in the veterinary medicine field and back in school pursuing his license to become a Veterinary Technician. Part time he also works as Guide for American Bird Guides, leading trips all around the state of Ohio. In his spare time Tyler enjoys Birding, fly fishing, herpetology and wildlife photography. Birds have been a touchstone for his life and have shaped his career path for the rest of his life.

Topic:

3, 2, 1 ... Happy New Year (of Birding)! 100 species by January 31. Easy enough, right? Now try doing that by January 2! Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society alongside Cleveland Metroparks Naturalist Tyler McClain as he takes us on his 48-hour journey to see 100 species of birds in Ohio.

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Botanica 2026: Nurturing Nature

Join us for an inspiring event that equips home gardeners with the knowledge and tools to make a meaningful local impact! Oct 10, 2026
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Location: Walsh University - Barrett Center, 2020 E Maple St, (Access Barrett Center parking from Market Ave N), North Canton, OH 44720

Keynote: Nature's Best Hope

Presented by: Doug Tallamy

Date and time: Sat, Oct 10, 2026 8:00 AM

Register Here:

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/c6zhdew?source_id=c515e413-18f8-4f6a-a36f-8eeb246e9fa4&source_type=em&c=jgK6E_2Ku-fp5FAFK6YfRix-kgX7EJnZom5ev4meP4tfYz9D9TTWww==

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Stan Hywet HALL & GARDENS

Greater Akron Audubon Society

Bird Walks at Stan Hywet

In conjunction with Stan Hywet staff & The Greater Akron Audubon we will be hosting bird walks on the following dates at Stan Hywett:

Program Date(s) and Time(s):

Friday, September 11, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Friday, October 9, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Friday, November 13, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
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Non-members $10, SH members are free!

Registration is limited to 15 and is required one week prior to each walk

Bring binoculars and a bird guide, if you have them.

Address: 714 North Portage Path, Akron Ohio 44303

Participants must register (and pay if not a member) on the Stan Hywet website. Like before, any person on the bird walk then has access to Stan Hywet for the rest of the day (they must get a wristband before leaving). Register here

https://stanhywet.ticketapp.org/portal/product/24/events

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Spree With Me: After Work Bird Walk

SEPTEMBER 14 @ 5:30 PM – 7:00

Firestone MetroPark/Tuscarawas Meadows Area, 2620 Harrington Rd.

Don’t let your 9 to 5 get in the way of completing the Fall Hiking Spree. Bird along the 1.6-mile Willow Trail and check a spree trail off your list.

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Spree With Me: Evening Bird Stroll

SEPTEMBER 18 @ 6:00 PM – 7:30

Cascade Valley /Valley View Area, 1134 Cuyahoga St.

Join us for an after-work bird walk to keep up with migration season, all while checking off the 1.1-mile Missing Link Trail on this year's Fall Hiking Spree. Binoculars available on a first-come, first-served basis

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Back Yards Gone Wild: Seed Collecting

SEPTEMBER 27 @ 2:00 PM – 3:30

Liberty Park/Nature Center 9999 Liberty Rd.Twinsburg, OH

Join a naturalist to learn how to start beautiful, beneficial native plants from seed, including collection, storage and propagation techniques. After learning, get hands-on as we collect seeds as a group, then go home with some of your bounty! Gardeners are encouraged to bring native seeds from home to swap as well.
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Fall Bird Walk

OCTOBER 4 @ 8:00 AM – 10:30

Bike and Hike Trail, SR 91 Lot 130 N. Main St, Munroe Falls,

Join a naturalist for a fall bird walk along the banks of the Cuyahoga River as we hope to catch glimpses of resident and migratory birds. Come prepared to walk about three miles on a paved trail with a bird guide and binoculars.

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Homegrown Habitat: Fall Garden Care

SEPTEMBER 10 @ 6:30 PM – 8:00

F A Seiberling Naturealm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd. Akron, OH 44313

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us and learn how to rewild your home landscape. This month, we'll learn the dos and don'ts of fall garden care. See your yard as a safe overwintering spot through the eyes of common backyard critters before fall cleanup begins!

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OHIO Native Plants

Collecting & Saving Seeds:

Reap what you Sow in next growing season

Wed Sep 9th 12:00 PM - 1:00

Presented by Kimberly Lessman, Seed Bank Manager, Holden Arboretum

Saving seeds is an economical and joyful way to renew the beauty of your backyard garden. Participants will learn how to identify various types of seeds, learn when seeds are ready for harvest, and how they can be stored for the following growing season. Join Seed Bank Manager, Kim Lessman, to learn about seed saving best practices in your own backyard.

Zoom registration link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Abuovh5MTO6RQ8DURi7wpg#/registration

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BLACK RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

"My Big Year: Birding for a Cause”

with Dr. Joe Blanda

Tuesday October 6, 7 PM - 9

Sandy Ridge Reservation

6195 Otten Rd. North Ridgeville.

Dr. Blanda will present his exciting adventures from his 2016 birding journey that led to much more than a long list of birds.

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CVNP Annual Fall Bird Census Sep 12, 2026 at 7:30 AM

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 the NPS Park Headquarters. The park has been designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society. Thanks to the wide variety of habitats, it is possible to observe more than 200 types of birds here throughout the year. Explore the information below to learn more about birding in the park.

To learn more about the Census, visit CVNP Census.

Visit our birds page https://www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/nature/birds.htm
for a complete list of bird species, seasonal birding highlights, photo galleries with identification tips, and other helpful links.

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Headlands Birding Festival, Mentor Ohio September 18-20:

Guided bird walks, keynote presentation, pelagic & Kayak trips, workshops, vendor and more on the shore of Lake Erie.

Registration now open. https://friendsofheadlandsbeach.org/birding-festival-home/

Greater Akron Audubon is one of the sponsors of the event

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News You Can Use

More native meadows are coming to Akron parks after success with Hardesty Park pilot

The city's first meadow, in Wallhaven, is guiding new projects in the North Hill, Cascade Valley, Summit Lake and West Hill neighborhoods.

The low-lying northwest corner of Hardesty Park in Akron's Wallhaven neighborhood was little more than a soggy patch of mown grass last year, often too wet for visitors to enjoy.
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Today, it’s a thriving native meadow that attracts dragonflies, goldfinches, pollinators and other wildlife.

Rebecca Derr, 53, was among the volunteers who helped plant the meadow last fall. Now, nearly every day, she leaves her home office during a work break to walk through it.

https://signalakron.org/native-meadows-are-coming-to-akron-parks-hardesty-park/

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DISCOVER wildlife

From the team at BBC Wildlife Magazine

This elusive bird can be heard up to 5km away – and the sound it makes is extraordinary

The song of the male bittern – the king of the reedbed – sounds like a foghorn.

In May, the dawn chorus is in full swing, making this a rewarding time of day to visit a reedbed reserve.

https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/birds/bittern-song

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DISCOVER wildlife

From the team at BBC Wildlife Magazine

“They stick out like a sore thumb.” This clown-like bird has really weird feet – and here’s why

There’s a lot more to these quirky seabirds than their eye-catching limbs

When looking at the planet’s skies and oceans, it is no surprise that Earth has been given the moniker ‘blue planet’. Yet in nature, the colour blue is rare.

For example, fewer than 10 per cent of all plants possess blue flowers, while the colour is even rarer among animals – which is why the blue-footed booby’s feet stick out like the proverbial sore thumb.

https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/birds/blue-footed-boobies

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Scientists probe how pigeons use magnetism to navigate

Homing pigeons rely on a variety of signals to navigate, including magnetism. But it hasn't been clear how they detect magnetic cues. Researchers propose the answer may be
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found in the birds' livers.

https://www.npr.org/2026/06/04/nx-s1-5845078/scientists-probe-how-pigeons-use-magnetism-to-navigate

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Visiting a beautiful oasis in Phoenix's Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area

Tucked away in hot, dry, concrete and asphalt sprawl of Phoenix is a small sliver of the Salt River's green, damp natural beauty.

Through the concrete sprawl of Phoenix, there's the Salt River. It was dammed up more than a century ago, but in some small sections, it's teeming with life. Alex Hager of member station KJZZ takes us there.

https://www.npr.org/2026/06/06/nx-s1-5847019/visiting-a-beautiful-oasis-in-phoenixs-rio-salado-habitat-restoration-area

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Can birds outsing traffic? Some are trying

New research from scientists at the Centre for Ecological Research in Hungary finds that some birds living in cities are changing their songs to compete with traffic and other urban noise.

https://www.npr.org/2026/06/07/nx-s1-5828822/can-birds-outsing-traffic-some-are-trying

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What covering the World Series of Birding tells us about teen teamwork

Sleep-deprived teens, devoted dads, and hundreds of birds. NPR spends twenty four hours at the World Series of Birding.

At NPR, we bring listeners to the front lines of conflict, we report on political upheaval, and we also share people's passions, like for the natural world.

https://www.npr.org/2026/06/13/nx-s1-5852205/what-covering-the-world-series-of-birding-tells-us-about-teen-teamwork

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How the way red-tailed hawks adapt could change rehab efforts and aircraft design

When red-tailed hawks lose feathers, they adapt their wing and tail movements to keep performing certain flight maneuvers, a finding that could inspire aircraft design.

https://www.npr.org/2026/07/08/nx-s1-5877620/how-the-way-red-tailed-hawks-adapt-could-change-rehab-efforts-and-aircraft-design

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Hummingbirds drove the evolution of thousands of tropical flowers

Say you've got two couriers carrying the same pollen from one flower to the next.

The first is careful to a fault. She scoops up every grain of pollen, tucks it neatly against her body, and hauls most of it home.

https://www.earth.com/news/hummingbirds-drove-the-evolution-of-thousands-of-tropical-flowers/

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'Living laboratory' in Geauga County is part of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Far beyond the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's newly revamped building in University Circle is a collection of natural areas, part of the museum's conservation

program.

Covering more than 12,000 acres across 10 Northeast Ohio counties, the museum's portfolio of natural areas includes bogs, fens, marshes, swamps, wetlands and a ravine.

In 2020, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History acquired Kelsey Ravine in Claridon Township in Geauga County.

https://www.ideastream.org/arts-culture/2026-06-26/living-laboratory-in-geauga-county-is-part-of-the-cleveland-museum-of-natural-history?utm_source=Ideastream+Public+Media&utm_campaign=d6c60d100a-WIR_02_23_23_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_398dc8223d-d6c60d100a-284669861&mc_cid=d6c60d100a&mc_eid=beda2071e4

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USA TODAY

Nearly extinct species coming back in wild thanks to Pittsburgh aviary

The National Aviary in Pittsburgh hatched two Guam kingfisher chicks as part of a coordinated Species Survival Plan to rear the birds at Sedgwick County Zoo and eventually release them on snake-free Palmyra Atoll, marking a key step toward re-establishing a species extinct in the wild.

https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/animalkind/2026/07/03/chicks-hatched-pittsburgh-restore-extinct-birds-wild/90576666007/

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Birdsong data from Merlin ID app to help global biodiversity project

Cornell Lab for Ornithology plans data linkup between app and population monitoring on eBird platform

The Merlin bird ID app will allow users to feed real-time bird identifications into one of the world's biggest citizen-science biodiversity projects in an update it is hoped will aid conservation of at-risk birds.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jul/04/merlin-app-birdsong-identification-ebird-biodiversity-conservation?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

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Fireworks & Birds

At our offices in Boulder, Colorado, this week, we've been experiencing the increasingly familiar reality of smoky air and hazy horizons caused by wildfires. As people across the United States prepare to celebrate Independence Day and the nation's 250th anniversary, we have an opportunity to think about how our celebrations affect wildlife, in particular, our tradition of fireworks.

A Better Way to Celebrate

Fireworks are a familiar part of many national holidays. Although the wildfires they can ignite often receive much of the attention, with fireworks responsible for igniting roughly 29,000 grass, brush, and forest fires each year and contributing to a spike in wildfire
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ignitions each Fourth of July in the United States, they also have other significant impacts on birds that are worth understanding.

https://environmentfortheamericas.substack.com/p/fireworks-and-birds?utm_campaign=post-expanded-share&utm_medium=web&triedRedirect=true

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The Synthetic Horizon

Migratory birds connect countries, ecosystems, and people. Their journeys are feats of endurance, but today, these pathways are littered with a pervasive, artificial threat: plastic pollution.

At Environment for the Americas, we work toward a world where migratory birds can safely travel across continents and borders. As part of the global “Plastic Free July” movement, we are highlighting the impacts of plastic pollution and sharing actions we can take to help reduce this threat.

Plastic has become a widespread issue across every stage of avian life, affecting birds throughout their migration routes and breeding cycles. This pollution threatens not only migratory birds but more than 900 species globally with more than 100 of which are already classified as endangered.

https://environmentfortheamericas.substack.com/p/the-synthetic-horizon?r=d3q9&utm_campaign=post-expanded-share&utm_medium=post%20viewer

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Spread the word.

If you know someone that may be interested in this Newsletter, please forward this email on to them.

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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Greater Akron Audubon Society

P.O. Box 19190, Akron OH 44319
United States of America

info@akronaudubon.org

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