



## Upcoming Programs and Events

### GAAS May Program

The Second Annual Bert Szabo Legacy Address

Featuring Speaker Jim McCormac

*Mysterious Moths - Growing the Darker Side of Butterflies*

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Himelright Lodge

Valley View area of Cascade Valley Metro Park

1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44313



Our enchantment with butterflies isn't surprising. These daytime flyers are easily observed and collectively encompass a rainbow palette of colors punctuated with ornate patterns. However, their close relatives, the moths, overwhelm butterflies in species diversity and sheer numbers. Most moths are nocturnal and largely out of sight and mind. Nonetheless, they are one of the most important animal groups. Moths are inextricably intertwined with native plants, bats, birds, and the whole of the eastern deciduous forest ecosystem. They play an enormous role in the pollination of native plants and over the eons have spurred the evolution of myriad defensive plant compounds to ward off caterpillar herbivory. In addition, they are often far more interesting than butterflies, both visually and behaviorally. This talk will be a pictorial journey into an intriguing and little-known world that unfolds all around us. We can greatly benefit the ecosystem around us by "moth-gardening" in our yards.

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**Avian-themed Concerts by the Bowerbird Collective  
to be in Cleveland May 14 – 15, 2024**



The Bowerbird Collective, an award-winning, Australian-based organization, produces new multimedia work that tells conservation stories, with the aim of strengthening emotional connections to the natural world. Their performance of ***A Season on the Wind*** premiered to sold-out audiences last week in Toledo during The Biggest Week in American Birding. The cinematic concert is based on Kenn Kaufman's inspiring book, *A Season on the Wind*, and is a musical and visual journey from the shores of Lake Erie across the Americas, this 60-minute performance stars three internationally acclaimed musicians, Simone Slattery (violin), Majel Connery (vocals) and Anthony Albrecht (cello).

The Collective wishes to publicize two additional different performances that will be in the Cleveland, Ohio area. After leaving Ohio, the Collective will be heading to California and touring internationally. You can receive a special \$5 discount for tickets to 'Where Song Began' on the 14th using the discount code "ILOVEBIRDS". Members of the Cleveland Museum of Art can receive a discount to the concert on the 15th.

**Concert 1: Where Song Began | A cinematic concert celebrating songbirds**

Cultural Arts Center, Disciples Church | Cleveland

3663 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Tickets: \$35 Adults, \$30 Seniors, \$5 U19 and students

[Where Song Began - A cinematic concert celebrating songbirds | Humanitix](#)

Program:

Arvo Pärt - Fratres for solo violin, 1977

Sarah Hopkins - Reclaiming the Spirit, 1993

Vaughan Williams - The Lark Ascending, 1917

Chris Williams - bird, songs, seas, 2017

Ross Edwards - Ecstatic Dance No.2, 1990

Johann Heinrich Schmelzer - Cucu Sonata, 1664

J.S. Bach - Prelude from Cello Suite No.1, c.1720

David Lang - Anthochaera carunculata (Red Wattle Bird), New Commission, 2017

Ngarra Burra Ferra - Traditional Indigenous hymn

**Concert 2:** *Rivers are our Brothers*, a song cycle by Majel Connery on ecological responsibility told from the point of view of the land (20 minutes) and *A Season on the Wind* (50 minutes).

Cleveland Museum of Art, Transformer Station | Cleveland

1460 W 29th St, Cleveland, OH 44113

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Tickets: \$25 Non-member, \$22 Member

[Majel Connery and the Bowerbird Collective](#) | [Cleveland Museum of Art](#)  
([clevelandart.org](http://clevelandart.org)).

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### **Spring 2024 Climate Watch**

**May 15 – June 15, 2024**



This community science effort is open to the public, including all interested Audubon chapters and centers, in addition to organized groups and individuals with an interest in birds. If you can identify bluebirds, nuthatches, goldfinches, or towhees by sight and sound, or are eager to learn, put your bird knowledge to use and help Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society conduct surveys to see how these species are already responding to climate change in our area. Saturday, June 1, 2024 is designated as the “big day,” weather permitting, but if that doesn’t work for you, anytime between May 15 and June 15 is fine.

To learn more about participating in this program, check out the video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odMMa6GGAOo>) and fast forward to about 17 minutes in, when Mary Anne Romito, Climate Watch Coordinator for Northeast Ohio, explains what the project is all about and how to participate and record your observations. If you’d like to participate in Summit County, there are squares available. Contact Mary Anne at [maryanneromito@gmail.com](mailto:maryanneromito@gmail.com) for more information.

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**Summit Metro Parks**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Native Plant Festival**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Lake Area**  
**Munroe Falls Metro Park**  
**521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls, OH 44262**



Join Summit Metro Parks staff and local native plant nurseries to learn more about the vital role of native plants in our ecosystem. Browse a wide variety of plants available for purchase or attend any of three educational sessions to better understand how to incorporate native plants into your landscaping. Presented by Wayside Furniture.

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**Summit Metro Parks Program**  
**Bird Nerds: Mating**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**  
**F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm**  
**1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44333**



Newbies and experts alike are welcome to join in this lively series for a fun, approachable discussion on a new bird topic each month. This month, peek through the curtains and discover how birds make more birds.



## American Bird Conservancy Webinar

### Bring Habitat Back: Conserving Birds Across the Americas

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.



American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is celebrating its 30th year anniversary with a behind-the-scenes look at some of its most inspiring conservation projects! Over the last 30 years, working with hundreds of partners, ABC has conserved millions of acres of habitat for birds across the Americas. More than 3,000 species have benefited from this important work — that's 70% of all bird species in the Western Hemisphere and 30% of bird species in the world! From the rarest species in the most remote areas to your beloved backyard favorites, ABC is working to ensure birds have the healthy habitats they need to survive and thrive. Tune in to hear from ABC experts and partners to share in their hope for the future of these birds and their habitats, and find out what's in store for the next 30 years. If you can't make the live webinar, RSVP and they'll send you a recording to enjoy when the time is right for you! [Bring Habitat Back: Conserving Birds Across the Americas \(abcbirds.org\)](https://abcbirds.org)

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## **Bird Walks**

### **GAAS Partner Bird Walks with Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens**

#### **Morning Bird Walks with Akron Audubon**

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens**

**714 North Portage Path, Akron, OH 44303**



In collaboration with Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens' adult education programming, volunteers from Greater Akron Audubon are leading or assisting with bird walks held on the grounds of the historic estate. The second walk of 2024 will be led by Ned DeLamatre with staff and/or volunteers from Stan Hywet on hand to assist with Stan Hywet history. Registration is free for members of Stan Hywet and there is a fee of \$10 for non-members and available slots are filling quickly through the last walk on November 8. After the walk, participants may take self-guided tours of the Manor House, Gate Lodge, and Corbin Conservatory, as well as the gardens. Please register at least one week in advance: [Main](#)

[Store - Stan Hywet](#)

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## **GAAS Bird Walks**

**Continue on Saturdays at**

**Firestone Metro Park**

**Through May 25, 2024**

**7:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Tuscarawas Meadows Area**

**Firestone Metro Park**  
**2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319**



Think in terms of a gathering of friends who enjoy birding together. There are always several very good birders present and we all help one another find and identify species. Meet at the bridge nearest the Tuscarawas Meadows parking lot. The first leg of the walk is always along the feeder race and we walk slowly, so it is easy for late arrivals to find us. Birders can arrive and leave at any time, and the trails are well groomed (but can be wet and muddy) and flat. Bring binoculars and birding geniality. The third Saturday walk on May 11<sup>th</sup> will be held in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day – that recognizes the northward journey of migratory species from their southerly wintering grounds to their northerly nesting sites. For more information, see [Saturdays at Firestone - Greater Akron Audubon Society](#). For questions about the walk, contact Ned DeLamatre at [ndelamatre@gmail.com](mailto:ndelamatre@gmail.com).

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**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**  
**Annual Spring Bird Census**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
**7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, OH 44141**





Participate in community science! Birders of all experience levels are invited to participate in this annual spring outing, compiling vital population records for natural resource studies. Census participants will be assigned to a team and hike in small groups on unpaved trails, recording how many individuals of each species they see.

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## **News You Can Use**

### **A Win for Birds!**

**Legislation Supporting Migratory Birds  
Across the Hemisphere Signed into Law**

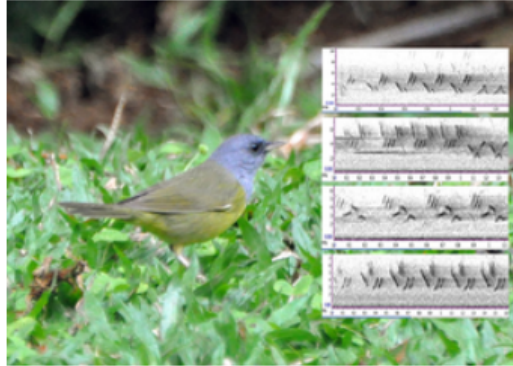


On April 24, 2024, President Biden signed a bipartisan bill reauthorizing and enhancing a program that provides funding throughout the Americas for partnerships to benefit migratory birds and their habitats. Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act reauthorizes critical funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) program and increases its accessibility for partners. Over 37,740 Audubon members took 54,700 actions, resulting in 110,000 emails to Congress on this act. Thank you for taking action!

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**Community Science Request**  
**Recording Migrating Mourning Warbler Song**

# MOWA SongMapper



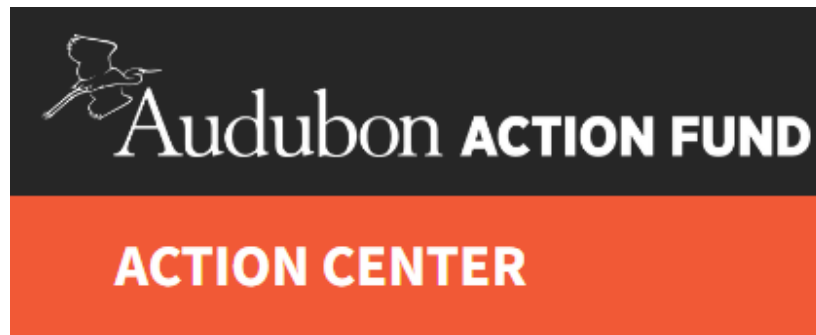
## Song Regiolects

There are four regiolects in the breeding range of the Mourning Warbler (sonograms top to bottom):  
Western, Eastern, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland.

Dr. Jay Pitocchelli, Professor Emeritus of the Biology Department at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH has issued his tenth annual (and final) request for help in recording migrating Mourning Warblers. He is trying to determine the nature of migratory pathways taken by different song populations of Mourning Warbler males during their spring migration and is continuing to collect recordings and plot them on a map of North America to determine if and where birds with different song types (regiolects) separate from each other during spring migration. The most current map of songs of migrants can be found here: [USING SONGS TO STUDY MOURNING WARBLER MIGRATION - Home \(weebly.com\)](http://www.using-songs-to-study-mourning-warbler-migration.com). All you need is a Smartphone and a singing Mourning Warbler. The web page link above describes the project and how to make recordings on your Smartphone in more detail. Please send the recordings to [jpitocch@anselm.edu](mailto:jpitocch@anselm.edu).

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**Urge Congress to Support**  
**Strong Conservation Programs in the Farm Bill**



The Audubon Action Fund is the advocacy affiliate of the National Audubon Society.

The Farm Bill represents our country's largest investment in conservation. Through the Farm Bill's voluntary conservation programs, ranchers, farmers, foresters, and private landowners have helped to stabilize once-plunging populations of Henslow's Sparrows and other bird species. Without robust funding for these programs, habitats for raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, and many other birds could disappear.

This year's Farm Bill has the potential to build on recent monumental investments in climate-smart agriculture and forestry, supporting a variety of voluntary practices that capture carbon pollution, ensure healthy soils, and improve habitat for wildlife—including bird species such as Sandhill Cranes and Golden Eagles.

The first vote on the Farm Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives is expected in the coming weeks. Urge your U.S. Representative to support a bipartisan Farm Bill that protects these vital conservation programs, including climate-smart agriculture and forestry. [Audubon Action Fund Alert: Support Strong Conservation Funding in the Farm Bill | Audubon Action Fund](#)

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**Great Lakes Audubon Supports  
Community Solar Projects Regionally  
(Help Support H.B. 197)**

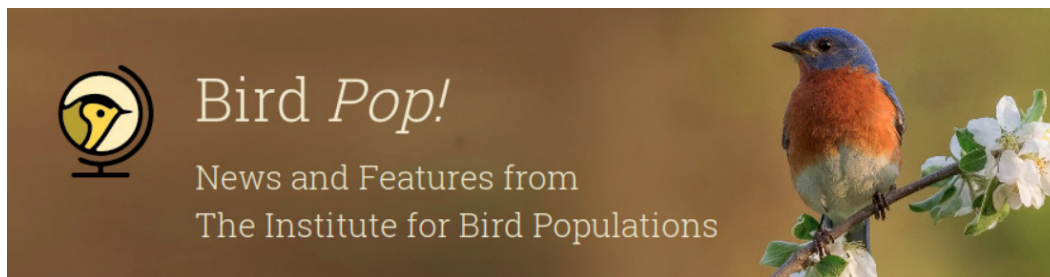


Indigo Bunting. Photo: Scott Suriano/Audubon Photography Awards

Audubon Great Lakes (AGL), our regional advocacy arm of National Audubon Society, applauds exciting opportunities to expand community solar to help protect birds from climate change. From their recent blog, “Most people are familiar with rooftop solar, which allows homeowners to install solar panels on their rooftops, helping to save money on electricity bills. But not everyone owns their home, has a suitable rooftop, or can afford to install solar panels. Community solar offers a solution to address these barriers... Community solar allows multiple participants—residents, businesses, or organizations within a community—to pay for a share of the electricity generated from a nearby community solar project. Utility companies will then reimburse community solar participants for the power that is contributed to the grid, helping them save, on average, 5 – 25 percent on their electric bills.” Read more about community solar in the region and particularly about efforts to establish it here in Ohio with House Bill 197: [Community Solar Brings People Together to Help Birds | Audubon Great Lakes](#). And read the April 24, 2024 written testimony by Marni Urso, Senior Policy Director, AGL who advocated for establishing community solar in Ohio: [audubon\\_great\\_lakes\\_hb\\_197\\_testimony.pdf](#)

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### News from Institute for Bird Populations



Two noteworthy items come from the Institute for Bird Populations blog. The first post is about the phenological mismatch between earlier spring seasons brought on by climate

change and the ability of birds to adjust their migration and nesting times to coincide with the necessary resources.

### **Bad Timing: As Climate Change Brings Earlier Springs, Birds Aren't Adjusting Fast Enough**

A new study using data from the MAPS program estimates that songbirds could produce 12% fewer young by the end of the century. [IBP - Blog Post \(birdpop.org\)](#)

The second post comes from a paper that appeared in the May 2024 issue of Ornithological Applications about birds in a climate change hotspot of the southwestern United States.

### **Birds in a Hotspot**

Response of breeding and migrating bird populations to climate change in the national parks of the U.S. Southwest.

The Southwest's birds, especially species of montane forest and grassland habitats, are among the fastest declining in North America and as average temperatures rise and extreme heat waves become more common, precipitation is declining. Research at six National Parks in the hotspot region has shown that the effects of the drought on birds varied according to elevation. Read more about how climate change in the Southwest is already affecting bird populations and why the National Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program is more important than ever to keep up with how climate change is affecting wildlife. [IBP - Blog Post \(birdpop.org\)](#)

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### **Rare Blue Rock-Thrush Photographed On Oregon's Pacific Coast for First Time**



Blue Rock-Thrush (*philippensis*) *Monticola solitarius philippensis*

Jason Talbott  
25 Apr 2024  
San Francisco, California, United States



Macaulay Library ML 617957550  
eBird S170309078

Another story making headlines recently is that of a new amateur photographer who went out one early morning to capture a waterfall at sunrise and instead turned his camera to a little bird hopping around on the beach. After processing his photos and posting them to social media, Eric Sanchez learned that he had taken photos of a Blue Rock-Thrush, among the first ever seen in North America, and likely the first spotted in the United States. Read more from the article by Sarah Kuta for Smithsonian Magazine's **Smart News** [Extremely Rare Blue Rock Thrush Spotted in Oregon Might Be the First Ever in the United States | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

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**Grow Beyond No Mow May:  
Options for Reducing Your Lawn  
An easy guide for replacing your lawn with native species**



From National Wildlife Federation comes a timely item of interest about decreasing our turfgrass lawn areas and replacing them intentionally with native species. [Grow Beyond No Mow May: Options for Reducing Your Lawn - The National Wildlife Federation Blog \(nwf.org\)](#). Be sure to click on the links to NWF-related blogs, **Why We Have Lawns** and **Why We Shouldn't Have Lawns**, to catch up on the history and impacts of turf-grass landscapes.



**From Homegrown National Park:  
Is a Bee Lawn Right for You?**

**FLOWERING BEE LAWN**

**What are they?**  
Flowering lawns are turfgrass areas mixed with low-growing, perennial flowers, like white clover, self-heal, and creeping thyme. You can walk on bee lawns and mow them just like a regular lawn, and the flowers provide food for bee pollinators.

[z.umn.edu/floweringbeelawn](http://z.umn.edu/floweringbeelawn)

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
TRUST FUND



Along with the notion of No Mow May, Homegrown National Park also suggests planting a native bee lawn if you want to increase biodiversity but aren't able to shrink your lawn (or have already reduced it as much as you can). Find out if this may be a viable alternative to your turfgrass lawn in this 8-minute read: [Native Bee Lawns: The “Better” of Both Worlds – Homegrown National Park](#)

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## **Migratory Birds and Capital Return**

### **The American Flyways Initiative Aims to Close the Gap**



From Aurelio Ramos, Senior Vice President, **Audubon Americas**, Published January 31, 2024

For conservation to be effective, it needs both financial innovation and sound projects. The rapid rate of climate change and its impact on biodiversity is not being matched by timely actions. Global investment for conservation tripled from 2012 to 2019, but "it is still insufficient compared to spending on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries subsidies that degrade nature, which is at least two to four times higher." The American Flyways Initiative (AFI) aims to close the gap.

'It is time to move from words to actions. Because birds are indicator species of ecosystem health, they have become unparalleled ambassadors for mobilizing resources for conservation. Their migratory routes allow us to identify geographic hotspots for biodiversity and strategic areas for structured investment. This is the innovative approach brought by the AFI, a powerful alliance that brings together the science and environmental knowledge of two leading conservation organizations—Audubon and BirdLife International



– with the experience of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), which contributes to regional development by deploying high-value investments.'

'Birds are telling us that if we want to increase our response to the climate crisis while benefitting sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the solution lies in the right combination of science and investment. That is *the secret formula* we must share in all countries to give wings to this transformation. We will not only see the return on investment but also the benefit to migratory birds as they travel across the hemisphere.'

Read more about how much funding is required, per year, to be nature-positive by 2030, something not achievable through government and philanthropic investments alone, and that requires the role of private investment. [Migratory Birds and Capital Return | Audubon](#)

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## The Osprey Connection: Cauca Valley, Colombia



Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) are magnificent birds of prey with a widespread distribution across the Americas. Found near both coastal and inland waterways, Ospreys links residents of watery landscapes from Alaska to Chile. Read the story and watch the video of people, thousands of miles apart, connected by a single species. Through various efforts—rehabilitation, ecotourism, and local activism—people play a crucial role in preserving these magnificent birds and their habitats. In their migrations across the Western Hemisphere, the Ospreys themselves emphasize our shared responsibility to protect our shared ecosystems. Hayley Beal, Eileen Schwinn and Omaira Rendón live thousands of miles apart but all share a common love for the Osprey. Find out how this magnificent raptor links people and continents and how Audubon Americas is working

across the hemisphere to protect them. Watch the video and read the background story from National Audubon here:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=3TXr8lhMAM8&si=E3FD9o5icW-rNI21> Read more about the Sonso Lagoon and how communities there track fish by following the Osprey: [The Osprey, at the heart of the Sonso Lagoon | Audubon](#).

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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](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org).

**Follow us on Instagram:** @akronaudubon

**Find us on Facebook:** @greaterakronaudubon

recordingxtagendz

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