



# THE DRUMMER



[www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org)

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June-August 2023

SRAS ~ PO Box 148 ~ Clarion, PA 16214

Editor, Cindy Bonner



Learn how to transform your backyard or landscape into a native plant oasis that pollinators and birds will love. The workshop “Gardening for Birds and Pollinators” will inspire you and show you how to get started so that your backyard is alive with bird song and the buzzing of pollinators.

The workshop is 9:00AM - 12:30PM, Saturday, June 24, at the Cook Forest Sawmill Center for the Arts. It is co-hosted by Seneca Rocks Audubon, Clarion Conservation District, Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Clarion County, and Cook Forest Conservancy.



Three knowledgeable presenters will share their expertise with native plants (plants that naturally grew in our region before European settlers) and provide ideas on how to change traditional landscaping into beautiful native plant gardens. The presenters and their topics are:

- “Suburban Yard to Native Paradise” by Connie Schmotzer, Penn State Extension Coordinator for Pollinator Certification and Pollinator Preferences.
- “Supporting Pollinators of Native Plants” by Roxanne Swan, Environmental Biologist and Horticulturalist, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.
- “Birds in My Garden” by Laura Jackson, Vice-President of Juniata Valley Audubon.

The workshop also includes optional guided walks before and after with Seneca Rocks Audubon’s Michael Leahy.

Tickets are a \$20 donation. Full details and registration are available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), at the event’s listing on Seneca Rocks Audubon [Facebook](#) page, or by scanning the QRC. Paper registration with a check is available at our website [senecarocksaudubon.org](http://senecarocksaudubon.org). Registration is limited to 75 persons.

Reserve your seat soon and please tell others about this excellent opportunity for beautiful gardening that helps to restore habitat for our birds and pollinators.



## Piney Tract (State Game Land #330) Field Trip

On Saturday, June 3rd, Michael Leahy will show participants some of the highlights around a very special place in Clarion County - State Game Land #330, known as Piney Tract.

Piney Tract is a 2,300-acre reclaimed strip mine located in central Clarion County that holds arguably the densest population of Henslow's Sparrows and other grassland breeding birds in Pennsylvania and likely, the eastern United States. It has been designated as a **Global Important Bird Area (#21)**.

We will meet at 9:00AM in the game lands parking area on Mt. Zion Road. **There are NO facilities in the area** so bring water, snacks and lunch. Although insects are seldom a problem here, insect repellent for ticks may be in order.



Henslow, Photo by Michael Leahy

We will walk a couple of areas here and then drive to a couple of other areas nearby to look for other good birds. Some species to be expected are Henslow's, Savannah, Grasshopper, Clay-colored and possibly Vesper Sparrows. Northern Harrier, Kestrel, Bobolink, Prairie Warbler and Eastern Meadowlark, are fairly common. Breeding populations of Upland Sandpiper and Short-eared Owls have been documented.

There is no address here to put into your GPS, however, the actual coordinates for the parking area are: 41 Degrees 08'49"N & 79 Degrees 29'57"W.

For Directions, questions or more information contact Michael Leahy at [mr1706@gmail.com](mailto:mr1706@gmail.com), or you can phone or text him at 814-229-1648



## Herb and Fiber Festival, June 3-4, 2023 ~ Cook Forest Sawmill Center for the Arts

Please visit Seneca Rocks Audubon's table at the Herb and Fiber Festival at Cook Forest on the first weekend of June. We'd love to chat with you! Our Bird-Friendly Habitat team will be there with information on creating a native plant garden for your backyard, window treatments to prevent bird collisions, along with native perennial flowers available for a donation. We'll have a small supply of 4" pots of anise hyssop, black-eyed Susan, wild bergamot, mountain mint, white beard tongue, lance-leaved coreopsis, oxeye (early or false) sunflower, and a few others.



Black-eyed Susan



Wild Bergamot



Lance-leaved Coreopsis

Our partners, Cook Forest Conservancy and the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Clarion County, will also have displays.

The festival is Saturday, June 3, 9:00AM - 4:00PM; and Sunday, June 4, 10:00AM - 3:00PM. The soup luncheon is on Saturday, 11:30AM - 2:30PM. For \$12, you get a bowl of homemade soup, the pottery bowl itself, bread and butter, cookie, and a drink. Check out the website [www.sawmill.org](http://www.sawmill.org) for more information.

## Millcreek Watershed Bird Survey

By Mal Hays

I started the Millcreek Water-shed bird survey in 2021. Larry Towse has helped me with this project in 2021 and 2022. We start around the first weekend of May and end around the middle of June, totaling approximately 14 hours. Our main objective was to try and find a Louisiana Waterthrush on Millcreek, which is a species that needs very clean water for its habitat. Unfortunately, we have not found one in our two years in doing the survey. We do not have set dates for our walks. We do them when weather and time permits. Several members of SRAS have participated in our walks. Anyone who would have an interest in helping could let either Larry (814-764-5433) or me (814-764-5645) know. We walk Millcreek from the Jefferson County line to the mouth of Millcreek where it enters the Clarion River; this distance is divided up into 8 or 9 outings. We keep records of all species found along the walk and we have found some very habitat-specific species.

This year we have set June 10th as a scheduled field trip for Seneca Rocks. This date should give people a good variety of bird species plus the Mountain Laurel should be in bloom along Millcreek. We will meet at 8:00AM at the parking lot on the Fisher side of Millcreek where Fisher Road crosses Millcreek. The walk will be along Millcreek so it will be an easy walk, no big hills, and should last about 2 hours. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. We will walk, rain or shine.

**Directions:** Go to Strattanville via Rt. 322. Turn in Strattanville onto the Fisher Road (SR 1011) toward Fisher. Coming from Clarion, it's a left turn. Continue 2-3 miles on the Fisher Road. After a long down hill, cross the bridge over Mill Creek, and start up the next hill for a short distance. Parking is on the left.



Photo by Greg Homel, Natural Elements Productions  
Reprinted with permission of abcbirds.org

### Cook Forest Walks with Guide, Michael Leahy, SRAS

**June 24th:** Morning bird walk in Cook Forest State Park, in conjunction with the “Gardening for Birds & Pollinators” program. Meet at 8:00AM at the Sawmill Center for the Arts, which is about 1.8 miles up Forest Road from the Park Office. The address is 140-170 Theatre Lane, Cooksburg.

**June 24th:** Afternoon hike at Cook Forest State Park. Meet at the Log Cabin education center on Forest Drive at 1:00PM for an informative hike through the “Forest Cathedral” along Longfellow Trail where we’ll look for spring migrant birds, learn about virgin forest, ancient forest and see some the largest, tallest and oldest trees in the eastern United States.

**June 25th:** Replay of the afternoon walk from the previous day for anyone who missed the Saturday hike or wants to do it again. Meet at 8:00AM at the Log Cabin education center.

### Legality of Removing Birds’ Nests

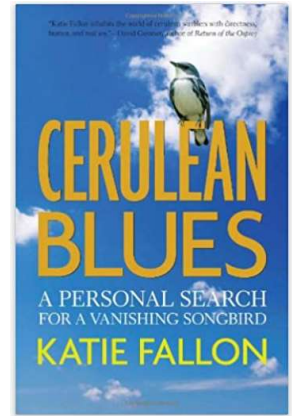
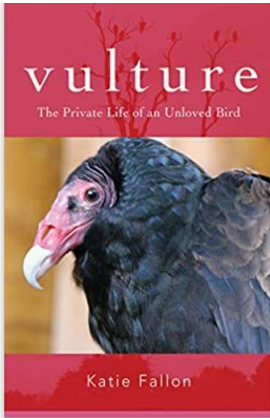
Before you remove a birds’ nest, always check national and regional wildlife laws. If you tamper with the nest of an endangered or protected species, you may face hefty fines. In the United States, you cannot remove an active nest of a native species. You can only remove the nest if it has been abandoned or if the eggs have not been laid. Invasive species, however, are usually not protected by wildlife laws.



Photo by Cindy Bonner, in our carport

**Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird  
with Katie Fallon  
June 14, 2023**

*Join us on June 14 at 6:30PM for an enjoyable evening  
with author and wildlife rehabilitator, Katie Fallon.*



Katie is the author of: Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird (2020) and Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird (2011).

Her essays and articles have been published widely in journals, magazines, anthologies, and collections. She writes the column WINGBEATS for the Bird Watcher's Digest.

Katie co-founded and is now the Executive Director of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation.

More information about Katie's involvements and her many accomplishments can be found on her website [katiefallon.com](http://katiefallon.com).

**This program will not be held at the Clarion Free Library as usual. It will be held at the PennWest (formerly Clarion University) Science and Technology Center on Greenville Avenue, Clarion, in the large auditorium, Room 120. Park across the street in parking Lot 11.**

Katie's presentation starts at 6:30PM, but come early to socialize and bring your family and friends. After hearing Katie's presentation, you will likely never look at a vulture in the same way again!



***“Vultures are homely, but they clean up all the garbage and that’s good.  
And they’re elegant in the sky.” ~ Roger Tory Peterson***

## Conneaut Marsh Field Trip 2023

By Mal Hays

On March 18th, Seneca Rocks held their annual field trip to Conneaut Lake in search of migrating waterfowl along with other bird species.

The day started at Custard's Swamp at 8:00AM where we had bright sunshine but very cold and breezy conditions. We had 10 planned stops on our field trip ending at the spillway at Pymatuning reservoir. We had a nice variety of bird species but the quantity of ducks was way down this year. We ended up with 46 different species of birds including 38 Bald Eagles and over 40 Sandhill Cranes.



Day was too chilly for a group photo!  
Photo by Nick Kolodick



Sandhill Cranes  
Photo by Dot Monahan

Here is a list of species we had on this field trip. (Reported by Mal Hays and Nick Kolodick)

American Coot	Common Loon	Mourning Dove	Rough-Legged Hawk
American Crow	Common Merganser	Northern Harrier	Ruddy Duck
American Kestrel	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Pintail	Rusty Blackbird
American Wigeon	Eastern Bluebird	Northern Shoveler	Sandhill Crane
Bald Eagle	Eastern Towhee	Pintail Duck	Scaups
Belted Kingfisher	Gadwall	Red-Bellied Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Blue Jay	Great Blue Heron	Redhead Duck	Starling
Bufflehead	Green-Winged Teal	Red-Tailed Hawk	Tree Swallow
Canada Geese	Herring Gull	Red-Winged Blackbird	Tufted Titmouse
Canvasback	Hooded Merganser	Ring-Necked Duck	Turkey Vulture
Cardinal	House Sparrow	Ring-Necked Gull	White-Breasted Nuthatch
Chickadee	Killdeer	Robin	Wood Duck
Common Grackle	Mallard		

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold conditions and participated on the field trip; looking forward to 2024.

### Amazing All Around You: The Not-So-Common Lives of Common Birds

Dave and Lori Kwasnick, owners of The Bird Watchers Store in Slippery Rock, presented a program on Wednesday, May 10, for SRAS. This website about the different calls of Chickadees was mentioned: <https://nature-mentor.com/chickadee-calls-explained/>. Did you know? As the number of "dees" increases, the likelihood of alarm and severity of alarm also goes up.

Another interesting site mentioned:

<https://birdlanguage.com/resources/bird-voices-audio-library/species-list/>.



Remember: SRAS provides free nature programs almost every month. They are held at the Clarion Free Library the second Wednesday of the month, September through December and March through June, at 6:30PM.

**Flo's Memorial Forest County Migration Count/Birdathon**  
**By Jim McGuire ~ All Photos by Meg Kolodick (not from that day)**

"Team Flo" participated in the first annual Flo's Memorial Forest County Migration Count/Birdathon this past Saturday May 13th. Expert birders included Kim Springer, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Carole Winslow and Alice Thurau, Scott Stoleson and Don Watts and apprentice birder Jim McGuire who tagged along with Tom and Janet. Also participating by watching their feeders were Jim's Forest County Lion's Club and Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group friends who were Birdathon supporters. The weather cooperated after early predictions called for rain then sunny and 80 degrees but turned out perfect at 72 and overcast keeping the birds active all day. Carole and Alice pulled double duty by participating at the Warbler Walk at Oil Creek State Park first before starting their route transecting Forest County west to east. They found our only Savanna Sparrows, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Mourning Warbler, and one of two Canada Warblers. Great finds! Some may think Scott and Don had the most physical job hiking the four mile loop at Buzzard Swamp but lucky for Don, Scott has the keys since he works for the US Forest Service and Don got chauffeured around! They contributed one of two Canada Warblers seen plus Black-billed Cuckoo, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Eastern Kingbird, Osprey and Hermit Thrush.



Canada Warbler



Greater Yellowlegs



Eastern Kingbird



Hermit Thrush

While taking a tailgating lunch break at Jim's home Tom, Janet and Jim heard what sounded like a Red-shouldered Hawk before it flew over the yard. They were discussing whether Red-shoulders were pushing Broad-winged hawks out of the area when they heard the shrill call of a Broad-winged hawk as it flew overhead. I guess they can coexist.

After lunch they drove along Tionesta Creek towards Kellettsville and in a swampy area away from the moving waters of Tionesta Creek they found the day's only Northern Waterthrush. Tom and Janet belong to many bird clubs including Three Rivers Bird Club, Todd Bird Club of Indiana Pa., PSO and are avid Hawk Watchers at several hawk counts. Tom and Janet also found the only American Kestrel, a rarity in "Forested County". Kim Springer is an avid e-birder from Mercer County, belongs to Bartramian Audubon Society, has a camp at West Hickory in Forest County and was the logical person to cover the greater West Hickory area out to Neiltown, which Gary Edwards still thinks belongs to Venango County (a long memory). Kim contributed many species to the count including Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow Throated Vireo, Ruffed Grouse, Double Crested Cormorant, Carolina Wren, Least Flycatcher, and maybe bird of the day...a Virginia Rail at the site along Dawson Run Road where Seneca Rocks Audubon held a Cerulean Warbler outing last year where Scott and a few others were lucky enough to see it then. It returned!!



Virginia Rail

Having more birding teams this year allowed a more concentrated effort to find more species than Flo and Jim could do by themselves over the past twenty-three years. Their goal was always one hundred which they achieved twice. New species seen during this year's effort of 120 species will increase the total number of species seen during the migration counts over the years to more than the 169 species that Flo and Jim had seen. Thanks to all who have contributed to this year's effort to honor the legacy of Flo McGuire.

## Warbler Walk, Oil Creek State Park, May 13, 2023

Lots of warblers and other birds were seen on May 13 during the Warbler Walk at Oil Creek State Park. Thanks to Mal Hays for organizing and leading the leisurely walk along the trails at Blood Farm. Thanks to Nick for keeping track of all the species! After the Warbler Walk, Nick, Gary, and Jim also went to Fisherman's Cove, Polk wetlands, Two Mile Run County Park, and Kahle Lake for even more birding. Nick and Meg added a few more from their backyard. In all, 76 bird species were spotted that day.

The human participants for the gorgeous morning were Mal Hays, Alice Thurau, Gary Edwards, Jim Wilson, Nick Kolodick, Carole Winslow, Dot Monahan, Mike Leahy, Julie and Jim Novacek, Ivey Kuberry, and Eric Bennett.



Photo by Eric Bennett

The birds marked with an asterisk were seen at Oil Creek State Park.

American crow*	Chestnut-sided warbler*	House wren*	Tennessee warbler*
American goldfinch*	Chipping sparrow	Indigo bunting*	Tree swallow*
American kestrel	Cliff swallow*	Killdeer	Tufted titmouse*
American redstart*	Common grackle*	Least flycatcher*	Turkey vulture
American robin*	Common loon	Louisiana waterthrush*	Warbling vireo*
Bald eagle*	Common merganser*	Mourning dove*	White-breasted nuthatch*
Baltimore oriole*	Common yellowthroat*	Northern cardinal*	Wood duck*
Barn swallow*	Eastern bluebird*	Northern flicker*	Wood thrush
Belted kingfisher	Eastern meadowlark	Purple martin	Yellow warbler*
Black & white warbler*	Eastern phoebe*	Red-bellied woodpecker*	Yellow-bellied sapsucker*
Blackburnian warbler	Eastern towhee*	Red-eyed vireo*	Yellow-throated vireo*
Black-capped chickadee*	European starling*	Red-tailed hawk	<i>On Kirkwood:</i>
Black-throated green warbler*	Gray catbird*	Red-winged blackbird*	Carolina wren
Blue jay*	Great blue heron*	Rock dove	Chimney swift
Blue-gray gnatcatcher*	Great-crested flycatcher*	Rose-breasted grosbeak	Downy woodpecker
Blue-winged warbler*	Green heron*	[male & female]*	House finch
Brown-headed cowbird	Hairy woodpecker*	Scarlet tanager*	Nashville warbler
Canada goose*	Hooded warbler*	Song sparrow*	Ruby-throated hummingbird
Canada warbler*	Horned lark	Spotted sandpiper	<i>Thank you to Meg Kolodick</i>
Cerulean warbler*	House sparrow	Swamp sparrow*	<i>for typing the list.</i>

## Reducing Bird-Window Collisions

Research shows that nearly half of bird mortality from glass occurs in buildings of three stories or less. Up to 1 billion birds die after hitting windows in the U.S. each year, and almost 50% of these hit home windows. Addressing collisions at home makes a huge difference for birds, and there are many bird window deterrents you can choose to fix your glass. Here are some solutions and products to prevent our feathered friends from crashing into our windows.

- American Bird Conservancy – maintains a list of Homeowner products and Architectural Products - <https://abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass/>
- BWCWG's Fact Sheet with Deterrent Methods [https://pa.audubon.org/sites/default/files/static\\_pages/attachments/deterrent\\_methods-double-sided-31\\_july\\_2018.pdf](https://pa.audubon.org/sites/default/files/static_pages/attachments/deterrent_methods-double-sided-31_july_2018.pdf)
- Central New Mexico Audubon Society Brochure - [http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Homeowner\\_Handout\\_CNMAS\\_v7.pdf](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Homeowner_Handout_CNMAS_v7.pdf)
- CollidEscape - <https://www.collidescape.org/online-store/Bird-Window-Strike-Solutions-c28724156>
- Acopian Bird Savers - <https://www.birdsavers.com/>
- Feather Friendly - <https://www.featherfriendly.com/>

## SRAS Membership

By Kay John

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society memberships are available on a year-to-year basis that begins in August and continues through the following July. Individual memberships are \$10 and a family membership is \$15. Dues for 2023-2024 memberships will be collected beginning in August 2023 and collection continues through October but, you may join at any time!

A membership application is available on the SRAS website under Support, Become a local SRAS member.

Member benefits are many and include receiving emails concerning upcoming events such as programs and field trips and also receiving information about any rescheduling or cancellations. Memberships also help pay the costs of non-local speakers, contributions for the meeting room, insurance and also bird and nature books for local school libraries. A favorite yearly activity is our Membership Picnic that is held in August at the Clarion County Park.

Please consider a Seneca Rocks Audubon Society membership. Call Chapter Contacts Alice Thureau (814-319-2677)/ Mike Leahy (814-229-1648) or Kay John/Membership (724-526-5960).

### Hummingbird Feeder Hint



Photo by Meg Kolodick

As we head into summer and hummingbird feeding season, it is also a season for ants. Here is a hint to prevent ants from invading your hummingbird or oriole feeders. Most cans of spray paint have a plastic cap with a built-in "moat". Turn the cap upside down, fill the moat with vegetable oil (water evaporates too quickly) and hang it above your feeder to stop ants. Drill a hole slightly smaller than 3/8" diameter in the center of the cap. Insert a small screw eye into each end of a 2-1/2" or 3" long, 3/8" thick dowel rod. Push the dowel through the hole until the cap is centered. Pour in the oil, filling the moat about half full and hang the ant stopper above your feeder.



### Interesting Facts about Birds

From: <https://www.mspca.org/>

- The smallest bird egg belongs to the hummingbird and is the size of a pea. The largest bird egg, from which the ostrich hatches, is the size of a cantaloupe.
- A bird's eye takes up about 50 percent of its head; our eyes take up about 5 percent of our head. To be comparable to a bird's eyes, our eyes would have to be the size of baseballs.
- The penguin is the only bird that can swim, but not fly. It is also the only bird that walks upright.
- Owls turn their heads almost 360° (a complete circle) but they cannot move their eyes.
- The first bird domesticated by humans was the goose.
- Kiwi birds are blind, so they hunt by smell.
- The common phrase "eat like a bird" should mean something quite different! Many birds eat twice their weight in food each day. In fact, a bird requires more food in proportion to its size than a baby or a cat.
- A group of larks is called an exaltation, a group of chickens is called a peep, a group of geese is called a gaggle, a group of ravens is called a murder, and a group of owls is called a parliament.
- Crows have the largest cerebral hemispheres (brains), relative to body size, of any avian family.
- Mockingbirds can imitate many sounds, from a squeaking door to a cat meowing.
- The chicken is the closest living relative to the Tyrannosaurus Rex.



## *Bewildering Birds*

**NOTE:** I am beginning a new column this issue dedicated to showcasing birds that are often confused. If anyone has a request, please send your request to [sras@email.com](mailto:sras@email.com).

The first of these “Bewildering Birds” are two of the red-headed woodpeckers, the Red-Bellied Woodpecker and the Red-Headed Woodpecker.



Like many bird species, the Red-bellied Woodpecker was named by early ornithologists who studied specimens they had shot. The faint red on the belly which gave the species its name was evident on a dead bird in the hand but is seldom visible on a live, wild bird.

Photo from [birdzilla.com](http://birdzilla.com)

The following information is from <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/news-events/the-buzz/difference-red-headed-woodpecker-vs-red-bellied/>

Unlike many cases of mistaken animal ID, red-headed woodpeckers and red-bellied woodpeckers don't actually look alike. The confusion between these two woodpeckers comes from their names, because the name red-headed woodpecker would be fitting for both birds.

While the red heads of these two birds is what causes confusion, they do have several differences. Red-headed woodpeckers have entirely red heads, and the shade is a deep, crimson red. Red-bellied woodpeckers, on the other hand, have red patches on the top and back of their heads, and it's a lighter shade of red. Both of these woodpeckers are otherwise black and white, but with very different and distinctive patterns. Red-headed woodpeckers have pure white bellies and black backs and wings that have large white patches. Red-bellied woodpeckers, on the other hand, have black and white stripes on their backs and wings. Their bellies are a creamy white with pale reddish patches. The faint red patches on their bellies can sometimes be covered with white, making the namesake feature even less apparent.



Photos from Cornell website

Both red-headed and red-bellied woodpeckers live across the eastern United States and both prefer wooded habitats. They also both typically excavate nesting cavities in dead trees or dead wood. Red-headed woodpeckers will sometimes use the same nesting cavity for many years, although that's not common among woodpeckers or birds in general.

Red-bellied woodpeckers eat a lot of insects, while red-headed woodpeckers eat mostly seeds, nuts and fruits and are less reliant on insects. Red-bellied woodpeckers are more likely to visit bird feeders, especially in winter. They particularly like to visit feeders stocked with peanuts, suet and sunflower seeds. Red-headed woodpeckers are less frequent feeder visitors, but they do sometimes visit feeders stocked with suet in the winter.

These two woodpeckers aren't the only ones we see locally sporting red heads. Pileated woodpeckers have bright red crests, and male downy and hairy woodpeckers have a small red patch on the back of their heads. Northern Flickers and Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers also have small red patches on their heads.

## Results from the 2023 Great Backyard Bird Count

*Information from birdcount.org*

Between February 17-20, more than 555,000 people around the world contributed 390,652 eBird checklists and shared 372,905 Merlin bird identifications during the Great Backyard Bird Count, delivering a record-breaking jump in participation over previous years as well as some interesting and unusual species highlights. Collectively, we found 7,538 species of birds - 2/3 of the known 10,960 species we share the planet with. More than 200 countries came together to share bird sightings. In a snapshot:

- **7,538** species of birds identified
- **202** participating countries
- **390,652** eBird checklists
- **372,905** Merlin Bird IDs
- **151,479** photos, videos, and sounds added to Macaulay Library
- **555,291** estimated global participants

*“Birds chirping around you is a beautiful realization that life is incredibly good. Let this sound be a gentle break in your routine.” ~ Hiral Nagda*

### Cook Forest Events

Saturday, May 20 at 11:00AM – **‘Walk with Friends: Deer Park/Mohawk Trail Loop’** Please meet at the Nuthole Cabin, located at the entrance of Ridge Camp, to join the Friends of Cook Forest for a 2-mile looped hike on Deer Park & Mohawk Trail. Expect a short off-trail ramble to Deer Park Trail to continue on the Mohawk Trail talking about old growth forest characteristics we’ll see on the way. Friendly pets permitted on leash. (2 hrs.)

Saturday, June 3 at 9:00AM – **‘Friends Workday’** Join the Friends of Cook Forest at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Classroom as we pick up litter on Forest Road and clean debris off trail bridges. We’ll start by cleaning litter off a 2-mile stretch of Forest Road. After a brief rest, we’ll depart from the Log Cabin Inn around 11:00AM to hike various trails throughout the park to remove pine needles, leaves, and other debris to help maintain trail bridges. High visibility vests and trash bags provided. If you have a “grabber tool” please bring it, along with a light shovel and sturdy rake for needle removal. (4 hrs.)

Saturday, June 17 at 10:00AM – **‘Friends of Cook Forest Series: Finding Your Way-Orienteering’** Ever get lost in Cook Forest? Can you find North? What if it’s dark or you don’t have a map? Join us at the Nuthole Pavilion, located at the entrance to Ridge Camp, to learn basics of orienteering to find your way. Participants will be sent on a short scavenger hunt at the end of the class to test their new skills. Some compasses are available but bringing your own is encouraged. Participants must be 12 years or older. (1.5 hrs.)

Saturday, July 1 at 10:00AM – **‘Friends of Cook Forest Series: Finding Your Way-Latitude & Longitude’** So, maybe you know how to work a compass. Do you know how to find latitude and longitude, north/south/east/west? Join us at the Nuthole Pavilion, located at the entrance to Ridge Camp, to build a take-home astrolabe with an extra twist specific for Cook Forest. (1.5 hrs.)

Saturday, July 15 at 11:00AM – **‘Walk with Friends’** (details to be announced)

Friday, August 11 at 9:00PM – **‘Friends of Cook Forest Series: Meteor Shower & Stargazing’** Please meet at the Ridge Camp Park Amphitheater to learn about the constellations and watch the Perseid Meteors put on their annual show. Attendees should bring a chair & flashlight and are urged to download the following the free app: SKYVIEW on their cell phones. Rain or heavy cloud cover date is Saturday, August 12 at 9:00PM. (1.5 hrs.)

*“A bird does not sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.”  
Maya Angelou*

*Seasonal Sightings (March ~ May)*



Indigo Bunting, May 11, 2018  
Photo by Meg Kolodick



Fox Sparrow, April 10, 2011  
Photo by Ron Montgomery



Pileated Woodpeckers in our backyard, April 13, 2018  
Photo by Cindy Bonner



Eastern Bluebird, May 19, 2020  
Photo by Meg Kolodick



Cape May Warbler, May 7, 2018  
Photo by Meg Kolodick



Coopers Hawk (possibly) that had just killed a bird  
in my front yard; photo taken from inside the house  
April 11, 2020 ~ Photo by Cindy Bonner

*More Seasonal Sightings (March ~ May)*



Towhee, May 1, 2022  
Photo by Cindy Bonner



Male (L) and Female (R) Goshawks during banding  
May 3, 2006 ~ Photo by Ron Montgomery



Scarlet Tanager, May 12, 2022  
Photo by Meg Kolodick



Cedar Waxwing, May 30, 2012, by my front door  
Photo by Ron Montgomery



Did you know? Dandelions are an early food source for pollinators such as bees, before other flowers can bloom. Hummingbirds also use them for their nests. The seeds and leaves can feed numerous species of birds.  
~ Information according to DCNR ~  
April 30, 2023 ~ Photo by Cindy Bonner



March 31, 2014, Conneaut Lake, part of the Conneaut Marsh field trip. Winter of 2014 was a very cold winter and by March 31, much of the lake's interior was still frozen so the ducks were forced in closer to shore.  
Photo by Ron Montgomery

## The Poetry Corner

### a summer's paddle

by Tabassam Shah

the fresh lime green of summer had not yet faded  
the air thickened and transformed the floodplain  
into tropical mangrove swamp  
and slow moving streams of black onyx  
the legs of mosquitoes the length of my palm,  
an easy lunch for flycatchers  
the prothonotary warbler, an egg yolk gold with steel  
blue wings  
his beak full of chartreuse caterpillars  
he perched and dined in the hollow of a silver maple  
its leaves a metallic shimmer in the afternoon sun  
he bounced along like a golden candle in the understory  
in the sticky heat i paddled swiftly to follow him  
wood ducklings glided by me effortlessly  
just to be a bead of water nestled in  
fuzzy fine soft duck down,  
i could float onwards upon black glass endlessly



Photo by Scott Burnet and used with his permission

### Desire

By Patricia Thrushart

The air was filled with the whistles  
of grosbeaks. I thought  
it was the sound of solace.  
But it was the young,  
begging for cracked seed,  
their need disguised as song,  
just as caress disguises desire.  
The crow's fledgling whines,  
the sparrow chips incessantly,  
but the grosbeak's fledgling charms,  
parents bringing the meat  
of seeds they cracked open,  
placing each heart in the beak of the  
bird  
whose descending sighs  
cannot be ignored.



Photo by Meg Kolodick



Photo by Dot Monahan and used with her permission

### Wildness

By Patricia Thrushart

The barred owl screams  
from beyond the wood's edge,  
darkling and filled with insect  
skitter and scrape;  
shrieks and stutters goading  
the dogs who howl back  
jealous of the long night's hunt,  
their prey a rubber ball.



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*“The robin flew from his swinging spray of ivy on to the top of the wall and he opened his beak and sang a loud, lovely trill, merely to show off. Nothing in the world is quite as adorably lovely as a robin when he shows off - and they are nearly always doing it.” ~*

*Frances Hodgson Burnett, “The Secret Garden”*



Photo by Meg Kolodick