

Birding with LAKE METROPARKS



July to
December
2025

To register for these programs: 440-358-7275 or lakemetroparks.com

Birding Programs

Level-up Birding

Ages 8 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), FREE

Whether you've been birding for years or just picked up your first pair of binoculars, there's always a way to level up your birding! Join us throughout Lake Metroparks as we explore nature and focus on a different aspect of birding each time in this brand new series!

Off-trail Birding:

Sat., July 12, 8 to 11 am, Indian Point Park—Paine Creek

Hawk Watch:

Sat., Sept. 13, 12:30 to 1:30 pm, Lake Erie Bluffs—Lane Rd.

Sparrows: Fri., Oct. 17, 9 to 11 am, Beaty Landing

Off-trail Birding: Sat., Nov 15, 8 to 11 am, Hidden Lake—South

Citizen Science:

Sat., Dec. 20, 8 to 10 am, Penitentiary Glen Reservation

Winter Birding on the Lake:

Sat., Jan 10, 2026, 9 to 11 am, Painesville Township Park

Owl Prowl

Ages 6 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), Fee: \$5

Whooooo goes there? Ohio is home to many owl species! Discover where owls like to live and what special adaptations make them effective predators! As we look for owls, keep your ears open—the owls may just talk back!

Sat., July 19, 8 to 9:30 pm, Penitentiary Glen Reservation

Sat., Nov. 1, 7 to 8:30 pm, Chapin Forest—Twin

Accessible Birding

Ages 8 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), FREE

Join us for an accessible inclusive bird outing at Lakeshore Reservation! This park is a great spot for birds on their migration and is filled with nearly flat paved trails. Our pace will be slow and there are benches along the way! No binoculars required and all skill levels encouraged.

Fri., Sept. 5, 6 to 7 pm, Lakeshore Reservation—East



Morning Bird Outing

Ages 8 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), FREE

Rise and shine and join us for a morning bird outing perfect for newbies and seasoned birders. Our bird outings are slow-paced explorations of nature with birds as the focus. We'll explore a different park each outing. No binoculars or special equipment is required. New birders are encouraged!

Fri., Sept 12, 9 to 11 am, Chagrin River Park—Reeves Rd.

Sun., Nov 2, 9 to 11 am, Veterans Park

Headlands Birding Festival

The Headlands/Mentor Marsh region hosts a high diversity of migratory birds. Join us at the Second Annual Headlands Birding Festival and celebrate fall migration! Visit headlandsbirdingfestival.com for festival information and to keep updated.

Fri., Sept. 19 to Sun., Sept. 21, throughout Lake County

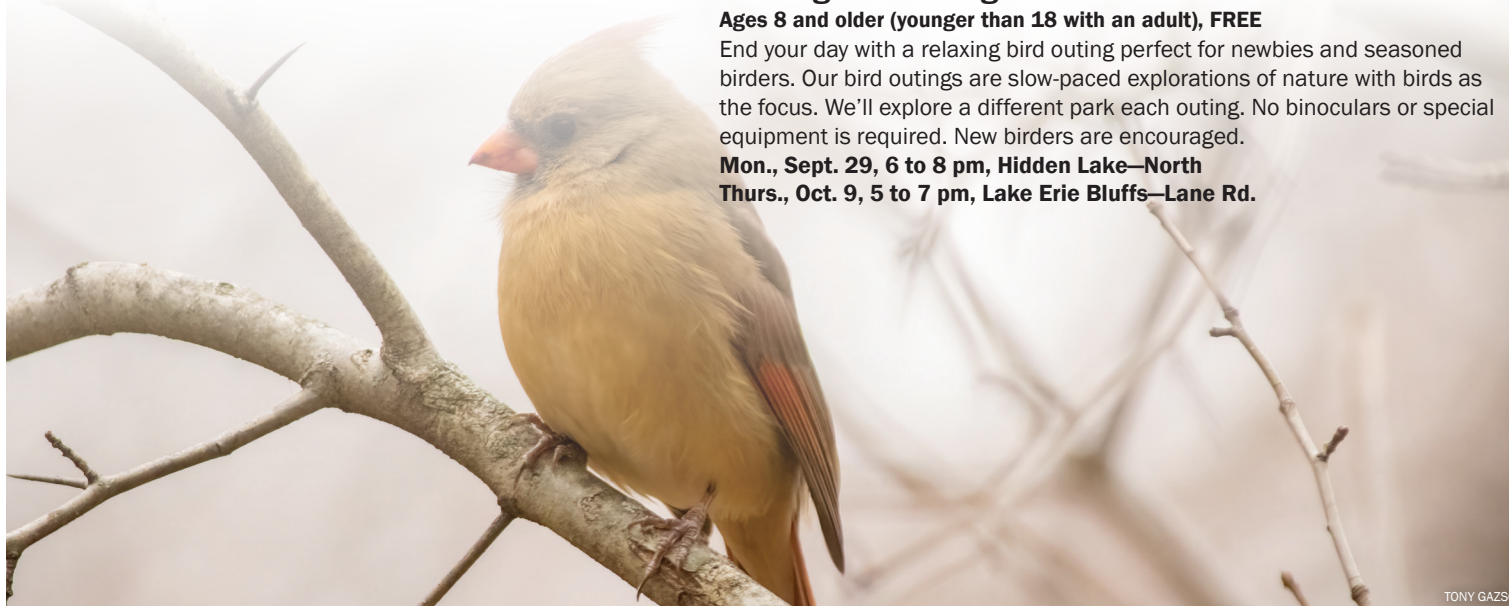
Evening Bird Outing

Ages 8 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), FREE

End your day with a relaxing bird outing perfect for newbies and seasoned birders. Our bird outings are slow-paced explorations of nature with birds as the focus. We'll explore a different park each outing. No binoculars or special equipment is required. New birders are encouraged.

Mon., Sept. 29, 6 to 8 pm, Hidden Lake—North

Thurs., Oct. 9, 5 to 7 pm, Lake Erie Bluffs—Lane Rd.



TONY GAZSO

Birding with LAKE METROPARKS



January
to June
2025

To register for these programs: 440-358-7275 or lakemetroparks.com

Birding Programs

Owl Prowl

Ages 6 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), Fee: \$5

Whooooo goes there? Ohio is home to many owl species! Discover where owls like to live and what special adaptations make them effective predators! As we look for owls, keep your ears open—the owls may just talk back!

Fri., Jan. 17, 7 to 8:30 pm, Gully Brook Park

Fri., March 21, 7:30 to 9 pm, Veterans Park

Morning Bird Outing

Ages 8 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), FREE

Rise and shine and join us for a morning bird outing perfect for newbies and seasoned birders. Our bird outings are slow-paced explorations of nature with birds as the focus. We'll explore a different park each outing. No binoculars or special equipment is required. New birders are encouraged!

Sun., Apr. 6, 9 to 11 am, Veterans Park

Sat., May 17, 9 to 11 am, Hidden Lake—North

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Ages 8 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), FREE

Be part of the one of the oldest citizen science projects in northeast Ohio and join us for this celebration of spring migration. Experience how Lake Erie Bluffs changes from week to week as migration unfolds. Birders of all skill levels encouraged!

Sun., Apr. 13, 8 to 10 am, Lake Erie Bluffs—Lane Rd.

Sun., Apr. 20, 8 to 10 am, Lake Erie Bluffs—Lane Rd.

Sun., May 4, 8 to 10 am, Lake Erie Bluffs—Lane Rd.

Sun., May 11, 8 to 10 am, Lake Erie Bluffs—Lane Rd.

Sun., May 18, 8 to 10 am, Lake Erie Bluffs—Lane Rd.

Birding All Day!

Ages 8 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), Fee: \$20

Are you new to birding and just don't know where to go? Join us as we explore multiple birding sites throughout Lake County. This all-day nature immersion is a perfect start to your birding journey. Pack a lunch and let's connect with nature!

Sat., May 3, 9 am to 3 pm, Penitentiary Glen Reservation

21st Annual Hummingbird Sighting Contest

Guess when the first hummingbird will be spotted at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center this spring. If your guess is closest to the date and time (between 9 am and 5 pm) that the first hummer is spotted at Penitentiary Glen Reservation, you will win a hummingbird feeding station.

This could be your lucky year so get your entry in before May 1! Call the Nature Center at 440-256-1404 x0 for rules and information or enter your guess at lakemetroparks.com



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Wed., May 7, 6 to 8 pm, Beaty Landing—East

Wed., Apr. 16, 6 to 8 pm, Chagrin River Park—Reeves Rd.

100 Bird Quest!

Ages 8 and older, FREE

Birders of all skill levels unite for this fun-filled birding challenge! Can we find 100 species in just four hours? Join one of many bird walks of varying lengths all across Chagrin River Park! Leave no leaf unturned during the 100 Bird Quest!

Sat., May 10, 8 am to noon, Chagrin River Park—Reeves Rd.



Level-up Birding

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Birding by Ear:

Thurs., May 15, 10 to 11:30 am, Girdled Road Reservation—North

Mindful Birding: Fri., June 20, 6 to 8 pm, Penitentiary Glen Reservation

Accessible Birding

Ages 8 and older (younger than 18 with an adult), FREE

Join us for an accessible inclusive bird outing at Lakeshore Reservation! This park is a great spot for birds on their migration and is filled with nearly flat paved trails. Our pace will be slow and there are benches along the way! No binoculars required and all skill levels encouraged.

Fri., May 23, 6 to 7 pm, Lakeshore Reservation—East

Birding Resources

Birding is a great way to connect with nature! There's no wrong way to bird. Whether you prefer to bird alone or with others, stick to your backyard or chase a rare sighting, the following resources may help you get all you can out of birding.

Birdability

Birdability features a crowd-sourced map featuring birding spots across the country. Some Lake Metroparks locations are already on the map, with more to be added in the future! Visit birdability.org

birdcast.info

Birdcast provides real-time looks at migration through live bird-tuned radar. You can also search your area and see how many birds are expected to migrate and which species you can expect to find!

Blackbrook Audubon Society

Our local Audubon chapter, Blackbrook Audubon Society promotes conservation and restoration of ecosystems with an emphasis on birds and habitat through education and advocacy within Ashtabula, Lake and Geauga Counties. For more information, visit blackbrookaudubon.org

Merlin

Powered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Merlin is a birding app that features a guide to birds around the world, as well as features such as photo ID (upload a pic of a bird and it will do its best to identify it for you) and sound ID (let the app hear the sounds around you and identify any birds nearby).

Ohio Young Birders Club

Founded in 2006 by Black Swamp Observatory, the Ohio Young Birders Club's goals include creating a community for young birders throughout Ohio, promoting volunteering, fostering an interest in natural history and encouraging young people to spend more time outside. For more information, visit ohioyoungbirders.org



Get to know common residents

Becoming familiar with the area's most common birds is not only good for honing your birding abilities, but it makes observing something less common stand out even more! Below are some common birds you may encounter all year long!



Black-capped chickadee

This tiny bird is common at feeders in winter months. Look for a round grayish bird with a black cap and white cheeks.



Tufted titmouse

A small gray bird with a pointed crest, this feisty little bird is related to a chickadee and found in the same habitat.



White-breasted nuthatch

This small gray and white bird visits feeders and is distinct in its behavior of walking down tree trunks.



Blue jay

This large crested blue, black and gray bird is found in just about any habitat. It is loud and often mimics other birds like hawks.



Red-bellied woodpecker

The red belly of this medium-sized woodpecker is difficult to see. Look for a bird that's tan, black and white with red on top of its head.



Northern cardinal

Common year-round residents, males are all red with a crest and black mask, while females are brown with red highlights.



House finch

A common feeder bird all year, house finches are a muted mottled brown. Males sport a red face and throat.



American goldfinch

Bright yellow in summer and drab in winter, the American goldfinch can reliably be identified by its black wing with light wingbars.



American robin

A stocky bird with a gray back and rusty breast. Robins often forage on the ground and are year-round residents.



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