

**Of note there were none of the following species observed in the 2023 summer census:**

**American Woodcock**

**Black – And – White Warbler**

**Northern Bobwhite**

## **AREA #1**

Fred Dinkelbach wrote:

Richfield Heritage Preserve had the near-perennial Dark-eyed Junco and Louisiana Waterthrush seen and heard in the same location as previous years, in the creek valley behind the Garfield Hall building.

At Richfield's Carter-Pedigo Trail behind the library on the 17th a fledged Barred Owl, with down feather remnants giving it a fuzzy appearance, seemed to follow us screeching for attention on the opposite side of a ravine along the northern part of the trail loop. At one point it was perched near a tree with a large clear hole.

Eastwood Preserve had a singing (but not seen) Red-breasted Nuthatch on the 18th. It was along the field just north of the southern entrance's woods loop.

Fred Dinkelbach

## **AREA #2**

Photos by Bob Burns 6/14/23

Deep Lock Quarry Towpath North from Lock:

Sequence of photos showing Song Sparrow feeding Juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird





More from Bob Burns

GAAS Summer Census 2023 Photos from Bob Burns:

Louisiana Waterthrush

Acadian Flycatcher

Broad-winged Hawk

## **Dwight & Ann Chaser wrote the following about Area #2:**

2023 Explanation for Area #2 coverage The data sheet for Area #2 by Dwight and Ann Chasar contains only data that we collected in the field. The other five attached data sheets from Hope Orr (towpath from Boston Store to Redlock at Highland Rd), Zimlichs (towpath from Redlock to Station Road), Betsy MacMillan and Amy Longley (Horseshoe Pond and Tree farm on Major Road), Bob and Sherilyn Burns (Deep Lock Quarry and towpath to Rt 303 and Lock 27 to Lock 28) and Heather Berenson (Environmental Education Center) were sent to me to forward to you. Their data (not included in Chasar data) comes from a different part of Area #2 (see below). Chasars covered the Summit hike/bike trail from Rt 303 to Rt 82; towpath from Lock 29 in Peninsula to Boston Store; part of Pine Lane trail; Buckeye Trail from Blue Hen Falls to Columbia Rd and Columbia Rd to Columbia picnic area; Ball Field #2 in Sagamore Hills; A/P Rd from Boston Mills Rd to dead end at Spicy Lamb Farm and parts of near-by Boston Mills Rd; Conservation area behind Lowe's in Macedonia Commons at Rt 8/82; Eaton Estate two wetlands; entrance to Camp Butler on Rt 303 and scan of Trapp Farm fields. I also had other birders covering parts of Area #2 and they should be sending their data independently to you. They are as follows: Joe Wojnarowski covered Oakhill trails; Marian and Jeffery Kraus covered Brandywine Falls, Stanford Road, cross trail to Hines Hill, survey not to encompass the towpath trail north of Boston store (Orr's area) ; ...Henry and Jim Trimpe covered the towpath north from Station Rd to the Cuyahoga County line and the Summit Co. bike/hike trail from Route 82 north to the Cuyahoga Co line. I have also included a composite list of all the data sheets there were mine or sent to me, so that most of the collation by you for my area #2 is mostly complete except for the three reports above.

## **Henry Trimpe Wrote of Area #2**

Highlights included 9 Yellow Throated Warblers along our portion of the Station Rd. Towpath - our highest total for this species on the summer census. 3 Louisiana Waterthrushes and 1 Northern Parula were also good birds along this stretch. Despite the failed nesting attempt, there was still 1 Peregrine Falcon hanging around the bridge. We also had 8 Bank Swallows over the river in a similar area to where we had them last year - in the northern part of our territory relatively to the close to the county line. We only had 1 Cerulean Warbler in the Station Road part of our territory, which is potentially concerning as historically we've had 3-5. That being said we did have one signing from the Station Rd. Parking lot which we didn't count (as it was in Cuyahoga County), and hopefully a few others were just silent that morning.

Yellow-Breasted Chat was a great find along the Sagamore Hills Bike and Hike Trails. Some summers they are there, and some summers they are not.

Notable misses included:

- Rock Pigeon (did not attempt)
- Ring Billed Gull (no flyovers)
- Green Heron (usually get one or two at Station Road)
- Red Shouldered Hawk
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Cliff Swallow (not at Station Rd. Bridge this year at least yet)
- Brown Creeper (not annual, but occasionally we hear one along in the Pinery Narrows area)
- White Eyed Vireo (we don't get them annually but sometimes along the Sagamore Hills Bike and Hike)
- Yellow Throated Vireo (usually along Station Road towpath)
- Blue Winged Warbler (along Sagamore Hills Bike and Hike in some years)
- Pine Warbler (not singing on our check the pine grove where we had one last year, which was the first time for us in the territory)
- Prothonotary Warbler (haven't had along this stretch of the towpath on a summer census in years now)

## **Joe & Marian Kraus Wrote about Area #2**

We covered our area on two days. The 9th and the 17th. Its always interesting to me what is seen and not seen between both dates. Dates combined we saw 11 birds not seen last year and did not see 10 we saw last year. The surprise was the Northern Harrier who was flying over the wetland area being chased by a Red-Winged Blackbird. Also, we had differences between the two days in both species and numbers seen. Our checklist reflects the greater number of birds seen in species and numbers. The hours listed are from the 9th when we covered our area from 7:30 am till 3:30pm (with 1/2 hr out for lunch). One thought —it might have been even better had the mulberries been ripe!!!

I've included a few photos-- this is Russ standing and Jeff sitting on stump. As usual the photographer is absent.

## **AREA #4**

**Karen Zeleznik wrote:**

Area Four of the GAAS Breeding Bird Census

Total Species: 67

Total Birds: 1614

Hours afield: 37:05 All but 20 minutes on foot

I thank Kate Jones-Orr for putting up with me on a few of these outings. **I would also like to share the permitted areas with a birder with better ears next year. You simply must get a look at those areas hidden away. You don't know what you're missing**

In one 10-day period I tried to identify and count every bird in my census area, I walked 88,058 steps, which translates to over 41 miles. I picked off 9 ticks, 5 on 6.18.23 alone. I walked through poison ivy covered fields twice just to observe a marshy area (when I returned home, I removed everything inside out and threw it all into the washer - shoes as well.) I missed two days, one due to rain, and one due to exhaustion. I sprained an ankle when I should have just let myself fall. I soldiered on for 3 more days.

My area looks fairly small compared to others' areas, but the size of Summit County's largest park, Liberty Park, is astonishing, and other than Liberty Park, there are no real areas to count birds. I discovered a few years ago that all parts of the gold course are off limits. That may sound funny to you, but I do not golf, so I thought I could hang around the edges of the park. Of course, that means I can't get to some of the treed areas surrounding the park or must drive up and down numerous cul-de-sacs.

This means that, with proper permitting, I cover everything on foot. This left zero time for butt birding the streets of Area 4.

If you pull up a map of Liberty Park on Google, you will see paths that barely scratch the surface of what is available with a permit. Each year, I discover a new area, sadly some are still not accessible since they have no discernable path, are in very high weeds, or a bit much for a woman who out of necessity must bird alone. The bulk of the park is conservation area and not open to the public. They do not grant permits to these areas easily, but they support the GAAS bird census. Each conservation area I enter is too big to fathom. Unless the park service enters the area with a mower or regularly drives a truck through it, you would have to bushwack your way through. [I tried to find out the exact size of the park, but I believe the published size of 3000 acres does not include the conservation areas]

As you see from my initial paragraph, the area is chock full of ticks and poison ivy; though I have been subject to both, I have been lucky. I hope to continue to bird Area 4, if for no other reasons than 1) it is close to home and 2) there is no way to enter private conservation lands unless you are a park employee.

This year, the area I entered for the first time was astonishing. The path was mowed regularly, but I finally turned back because when I looked at an online map to see where I was, I saw that I was heading deeper than I wanted to go. I realized it was too much and I had no way of knowing where the path would lead.

When I returned to semi-civilization, I talked to a park employee working there. He told me the path would eventually just dead end. (I'm guessing that the dead end was more than a quarter mile from where I quit)

That entire area is marsh and raised areas between forested areas. It would be great for paddling around! I discovered that there is even a viewing blind at the end of one of the marshes! I hate that I must wait 12 months to return. AND that is just one Conservation area! The other is larger, I think, but it is harder to explore since they don't take vehicles back there very often. It also connects with the bit of Liberty Park off Old Mill Road that starts in Portage County. Unless I hear otherwise, when I bird that area for the census, I don't record bird species until I get to the viewing platform that looks out over the Conservation area. Eagles, Trumpeter Swans and Sandhill Cranes nest there, but with this year's drought, I believe the swan nesting failed as they have not been seen for a few weeks.

Here is what Liberty Park has to offer along Liberty Road:

- The Nature Center, with bird feeders, currently empty due to a raccoon issue.
- The Ledges Trail behind the nature center, which offers a rugged path through the ledges and deep woods birds and wildlife. There are Juncos at the ledges. This trail turns back on a different path after passing an area mostly hidden from

view, which is probably a marsh. There one can get Swamp Sparrows and other fun birds.

- The Black Bear Trail, other than your klutzy narrator tripping over some rocks and roots is not a difficult path. There is a side path that leads to Liberty Road and provides a different type of fauna. Of course, there are Acadian Flycatchers, Hooded Warblers, Wood Thrushes and Eastern Wood Pewees galore. There is not a lot of variety as there is not as much in the way of understory for cover in this old growth forest.
- The Bluebird Trail is an easy walk through a field populated by Common Yellowthroats, Yellow Warblers, Red-winged Blackbirds by the score, Goldfinches, Song Sparrows, and many Willow Flycatchers. The area is bound on the east by the forested area of the park, the north by a housing development with a small pond that rarely has much present, then continuing, a wooded area. On the west is a wooded area, then on the south a narrow band of trees.
- The multiuse trail is paved and runs along the side of the Bluebird trail on the north, then continues to a low growth and grassy area to Liberty Road, and back up the south side of the driveway area between fields and forest.
- There is much area to explore all along Liberty Road to the south, there may be a mown strip, or you might have to travel along busy Liberty Road. I'm always looking for paths there. This part heads for a considerable distance to the dog park on Liberty Road.
- The Dog Park has a mown grass path around the area, a gourd nest area that is used by tree swallows, and a path into the woods on the north. Tree Swallows and occasionally Barn Swallows use the fields along with more Red-winged Blackbirds you can count. The entry to the woods has the typical woodland birds. On the east that mown path is bounded by woods. This part is also a great place for Killdeer.
- South of the Dog Park and connected to it, is the recreation area with the Meadows Trail. In many ways it is similar to the Dog park in what you can find until you get past the baseball diamonds. Then there is an unmown grassy area suitable for our grassland species. Over the last few years I have been watching for these birds. Sadly I can't hear the grassland sparrows, but Merlin has not identified any there either. I am sure they will be there in the near future. I was surprised a few years ago by an Eastern Meadowlark, and tried to find more like this, but this year was the first time I had more than one Meadowlark and at least 2 BOBOLINKS!! It's hard to count numbers as they stay out of sight most of the time. Also, there is housing for Chimney Swifts, some bluebirds will be around, and of course, even more Red-winged Blackbirds. The east side of this area is bounded by woods and has the entrance to the Sugarbush Trail, a short woodland walk. There is also a permit required area on the southeast corner of the meadow area.

Now to the other areas of the park:

- Pond Brook is on Route 82 east of the railroad tracks and alongside the Portage County Line. Sadly the area between the park and the county line is on route 82 and no matter when I have arrived, the traffic is very noisy, fast and a bit daunting. At the southeast corner of Route 82 and the Portage County line is a cell phone tower that has been used by Osprey for a few years. I saw one juvenile on the nest in 2023. There is a pull off on a side street across from the cell tower which is probably better than pulling along Route 82. The little road leads back to a water treatment plant and a park service garage with a no trespassing sign. I have not taken a chance on that yet.
- The only public area of this part of Liberty Park is the Buttonbush trail. There is a good-sized parking lot and probably the only place you can legally park. The parking lot has trees that attract berry eating birds and if, like me, you can't hear Cedar Waxwings, that is where you will find them. The trail is bordered by woods. On the westmost side of the trail is Pond Brook, a good place for many great birds. Shortly after you begin is the only bench on this leg of the path. Sit. Admire the brook. The birds will be there. It will be a long walk before your next bench!
- At the end of this leg of the path is a conservation area that requires a permit. The park system probably won't hand out a permit outside of the census, which makes me sad as this year I delved deeper into this area and was astonished by the beauty of the marshes and wetlands of Pond Brook. There is even a viewing blind. I need a birder to enjoy this with me as my ears are not always up to the task. Last year I had one Ovenbird, this year, a bucketful of Swamp Sparrows and other fun birds. I can't seem to get out there early enough in the day for any other marsh denizens, although an employee mentioned Sora.
- If you can brave Route 82, you can view the brook from the road, or walk a bit east from the parking lot, dash across the street and there is another Conservation area. This is extensive and is a great place to study ticks! There is a rough road entrance followed in the back by poorly tended path. I cannot brave this beyond about a quarter of a mile west and hardly at all to the east. This, I believe is where the Pond Brook Conservation Area meets up the former Tinkers Creek State Park.
- Old Mill Road entrance to Liberty Park. If you travel on Old Mill, you will see a tiny parking lot on the side leading back to a viewing stand. The viewing stand and beyond is in Summit County. Although the park is part of the Summit County System, I only bird what I can see or hear from that stand, or if it has been cut down and we continue to have drought years, a little bit further. The Eagle's nest is straight out across the marshes. The e naturalists were concerned that the nest was not productive. I got shots of two juveniles practicing with their wings there. I was told this year that there were two Sandhill Crane nests there and Trumpeter Swans nesting. I was told that they believe the drought ended the Swan nesting. I sat on the bench of the viewing stand and hear the Cranes!!! Last year, I got the Swans, but not the

cranes. This year no Swans. I went back a few days later and saw two adult cranes.

This ends my tour of Liberty Park.

## **AREA #5**

Peg & Rob Bobel wrote:

We enjoyed censusing there again and hope it adds nicely to your count—I'm curious about where else you go in Area #5—we again this year were able to see bobolinks at Crown Point, though no meadowlarks. It can be both a pleasurable and challenging place—the highway noise can make it difficult to hear some of the bird calls, especially in the western parts of the property, but it is otherwise a peaceful and beautiful place with several different habitats.

Crown Point has continued to allow some fields to remain uncultivated, which is where we find the bobolinks, but their leadership there has changed several times over the years and I'm not sure if the importance of this habitat gets handed off to new leadership each time. I will send them a copy of the census and encourage their continuing to keep the meadows—they might also appreciate advice on how best to manage for the bobolinks.

best to you on the rest of the census, and thanks for all you do,

## **AREA #7**

**Doug Marcum wrote:**

Due to the drought this spring, the hayfields on Steels Corners were cut early (before the census began), and the grassland birds were all but absent. Hampton Hills Metropark produced some exciting birds and observations as usual, including a couple counter-singing Blue-headed Vireos. Megan Spina and a couple CVNP volunteers paddled the river with me on 6/15 and we counted everything within the river channel and on the eastern floodplain. We saw a hen Common Merganser with 13 "teenagers"...it is possible that these birds were seen from Area 6 as well. One of my biggest highlights was a Winter Wren family that Megan and I found in some hidden ravines behind Blossom music center. Overall, it was a good count year in Area 7!

## **AREA #11**

Peg & Rob Bobel Wrote:

It might be helpful to you if I describe in general our area. We "adopted" it in 2020, I believe, from Doug Vogus and hope we cover it as adequately as he did.

We focus on the following parks or park-like areas: Gorge Metro Park (both the Gorge Trail and the Glens Trail); High Bridge Glens Park (a boardwalk and overlook into the upper gorge of the Cuyahoga); the Riverwalk area along the Cuyahoga River east of Front Street; the river along Riverfront Park; Oakwood Cemetery; Ross Park; and previously Newberry Park. We also try to catch any sightings or hearings along the residential streets that we drive from park to park, though I'm sure we overlook a number of house sparrows, starlings, robins, etc., and we can only cover a small percentage of streets in the time that we have.

One change that we noted this year is the destruction of Newberry Park. This small city park used to have a woodlot where we'd find some woodland species such as Eastern wood pewee, maybe even a wood thrush or Baltimore oriole. This year we discovered that the woods has been leveled to make way for a new Cuyahoga Falls school "campus." Unfortunately the kids won't have a woods to wander in as part of their studies! All that was left was a thin row of trees and we could not access those due to the construction fencing.

On a happier note, I believe we still saw more species this year than last.

Also to note: we include a small piece of river and woods that appears to be in a sort of no-man's land sandwiched between Areas 11, 12, and 16. I apologize if this is technically in Area 12—it's east of Front Street, south of Bailey Rd., along the river ("Riverfront Park," a put-in for paddlers). If we need to drop those birds out I can do that—we kept a separate list.

That's all! Good luck with compiling!

## **AREA #12**

Ann Gilmore wrote:

I covered Area 12 from Darrow Road west. Becca had the other half of the territory Darrow east.

Most of my time was spent along the river, airport, and Powers Brook area. Unfortunately I only spent 10.5 hours in the block this year which contributed to fewer birds overall, less species than years past. I am also missing some regulars (BEKI, BDOW, SCTA, SWSP, etc.). Interesting finds this year include SPSA on the river, flushed a WITU and a baby but I didn't stick around to look for more babies because she was freaking out, a GRSP at the airport, and an OSPR seen patrolling the river between Fish Creek and Brust Park carrying sticks and foraging. I kayaked the river this year which was so great – we saw river otters!

I feel like some species were more quiet compared to years past, perhaps they were on nests. This includes common birds I would have expected to hear more of including PIWO, NOFL, EATO, AMRE. I also spent less time perusing the neighborhoods so I'm sure my HOWR, HOSP, AMRO, AMGO, EUST numbers are a bit off.

I look forward to hearing what Becca found. I hope she was able to round out my numbers!

## **AREA #14**

Janet Wertz wrote:

A couple of my favorite sites were the Peregrine Falcons (3) on Huntington Bank and a swarm or murmuration of 80 + Chimney Swifts at the old? Board of Education building at corner of Perkins St (59) and Broadway downtown Akron. They disappeared into the chimney about 9:25 pm. A Red-tailed Hawk

came in and perched on the building shortly before the birds went into the chimney. I went there to listen for a Common Night Hawk I got last year.

No luck with that but enjoyed the chimney swifts. I Did get Common nighthawk downtown Cuyahoga Falls. Thanks for listening!

## **AREA #15**

Brnadon Henneman wrote:

Adam Jackson (cc'd) documented a Swainson's Thrush (w/ good photo) that I hand wrote on the bottom of the worksheet. I've also attached an excel document with our counts that may help answer any questions related to my poor handwriting.

It is worth noting that a large section of our Area, The Chuckery area of Cascade Valley, was closed and Summit Metroparks was unwilling to allow a special use permit for any purpose so this rather large area was not surveyed. This may or may not have impacted our overall species count as most expected species were documented, but would certainly impact our overall number of individual birds.

## **AREA #18**

Ann Gulbransen wrote:

I live across the street from the west edge of this territory. FYI, during the count period I had at least 2 ruby-throated hummingbirds, a willow flycatcher, a brown thrasher, a pair of rose breasted grosbeaks and a pair of red headed woodpeckers.

## **AREA #20**

Heather Berenson Wrote:

I had to travel out of state last minute so my coverage is lighter than usual. I am sharing a photo of the location I found the spotted sandpiper on two separate dates. I am always surprised when I come across birds in West Akron that I don't expect to see.

## AREA #22

Kathy Mock – Spotted 2 Merlins at GREENLAWN MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY but only got one to pose for picture.

Rob and Sandy Harlan wrote of Area 22:

Kathy Mock handled Greenlawn Cemetery in Barberton and followed the Merlins. Although in our territory, we did not include any birds from Greenlawn in our tally, but you should have the data from Kathy.

We normally bird Lake Dorothy for the census, but we weren't able to this year due to health issues. It is a private area with advance permission required for entry. Although we had permission to enter on Father's Day, I ended up in the emergency room instead. Would have rather been at Lake Dorothy!

I don't know if you've been following the saga of the GPS-tracked Ferruginous Hawk that was originally captured in Ontario, and then moved west into Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, WV, and Pennsylvania. According to this data, the hawk moved through Summit County (including our area) on June 14. We didn't see it, unfortunately, but it was in the area during the census!

Another interesting observation was of a Field Sparrow at the cross-country trail at Silver Creek MP. A male bird "sang" repeatedly, in clear view and only 30 feet away, but was absolutely silent except for a barely audible gurgle at the very end of its "song." We watched the bird open and close its bill (with appropriate cadence) repeatedly from the top of a bush, as if singing, but essentially no sound came out. We could hear other Field Sparrows farther away singing, so it wasn't just a case of our not being able to hear Field Sparrows. I must assume that this would make it difficult to attract a mate!

Thank you,

Rob and Sandy Harlan

## AREA #23

**Pat Pickard Wrote:**

### **Item 1**

Three Black Vultures were observed, photographed, and reported in Area 23 at on Sunday 06-11-2023 by Kathy Mock at the Malco Products manufacturing plant on Fairview Ave in Barberton Ohio. Kathy's sighting was confirmed by Joanne Priest.

Photographs of Black Vultures at Malco Plant 06-11-2023

### **Item 2**

Areas Covered in AREA 23 Summer Census:

- Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath from Tuscarawas St. in Barberton to Rt 224 Bridge.
- Area adjacent to towpath on north end of Long Lake, Summit Metro parks Confluence Park West, Long Lake boat ramp area, and south end of Long Lake along Portage Lakes Drive.
- Coventry Track/Athletic fields along Portage Lakes feeder canals. Anna Dean Park in Barberton.
- East side of Barberton on foot.
- Salt well roads adjacent to Ohio and Erie Canal towpath,
- Lake Nesmith Park.

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Area 23 Summer Census

JPP 06-20-2023

## **AREA #24**

Aimee Phillips Wrote:

It was a good year in my territory, including the following notes:

1. Osprey - I saw the addition of four new nests this year, which I have marked on the attached map. Of the 25 counted, 5 were babies seen in the nests. This territory seems to be growing leaps and bounds, especially along Rt 224.
2. The heronry on Waterloo Rd is also growing stronger, with several new nests appearing across the street to the north as well as the back left of the south side.
3. On the rarer side - the yellow-bellied sapsucker I saw was in an unusual spot, behind the Herzig University Building on Arlington Road. I generally do a quick look back there, and this year as I did, the sapsucker bounced up and down a tree and then flew off. It was an exciting moment!
4. There was a big increase in my reports for yellow warblers (which I noticed in all my birding everywhere this year) and cedar waxwings.
5. This is my fourth summer count and my first year reporting mockingbirds, a wood thrush, and a willow flycatcher. The mockingbirds were trying to keep three red-tailed hawks at bay back by The National Lime & Stone Company off of Firestone Parkway. It was an interesting show. I also had my highest species count this year. I know I have

been improving as a birder over the years, but up nine more species this year from last is encouraging, I think, as an overall sign of the habitat opportunities in my territory.

I am attaching a couple of pics of the blue heron families, a pic of a red-shouldered hawk family all hanging out in the same tree, and my lone spotted sandpiper on a tank building off the Wilbeth Rd O&E towpath trail. Not exactly where you look to see sandpipers. lol.

Let me know if you have any questions. Happy compiling!

## **AREA #26**

Dave and Lisa Shiner, Brenda and Steve Davison, Pam Leddon wrote:

Another successful and exciting Bird Count Year for Area 26. Firestone Metro Park is a birding wonderland with species galore. Highlights at Firestone include a pair of Scarlet Tanagers feeding their young in the nest!; American Redstart nesting pair, but we only saw the male. A Highlight at Knapp Park was a nesting pair of Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds in their nest. "