



January 2021 Virtual Field Trip: Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

Bird Walk Leader: Michelle Brosius

WCAS Board Member and Field Trip Co-Coordinator

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation



Photo: The Ohio and Erie Canal at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

“Located on 325 acres in Cleveland's industrial heart, through the villages of Cuyahoga Heights and Valley View, the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation offers unique opportunities for discovery. Tucked amid the Shortline railroad trestle, pipelines and steel mills are the lush fields and forests of the river valley. The reservation follows a portion of its namesake, the historic 309-mile Ohio & Erie Canal. Together with the Cuyahoga River, the northernmost remaining 4.4 miles of watered canal provides wildlife management areas, fishing opportunities and scenic beauty. Picnicking, hiking trails and a 7.2-mile Towpath Trail links the reservation with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Indoor exhibits and interpretive programming at the Leonard Krieger CanalWay Center explore the complicated relationships between people, industry and nature. The trails around the center are paved for easy access. The center also features a multi-purpose room available for public functions and EarthWords, a nature shop of Cleveland Metroparks.” – [Ohio & Erie Canalway website](#)

“Amidst the surrounding industrial area, this reservation has been naturally reclaimed to support thriving habitats including wetlands, forests, the Cuyahoga River and flowing canal.” – Cleveland Metroparks, [Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation](#)

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation (cont.)



A closer look at *The Ohio and Erie Canal Reclaimed by Nature* sign...

“The Ohio and Erie Canal once fueled the region’s thriving industry, helping to make Ohio one of the most prosperous states in the nation. Eventually, advancements in transportation, along with destructive flooding, made the canal obsolete. Large sections of canal were filled in and those that remained were abandoned, left to be reclaimed by nature.

The Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation now thrives as a haven for wildlife. The water of the canal provides excellent wetland habitat for fish, turtles, frogs, and beavers, while the hillsides of the surrounding Cuyahoga River valley serve as a much needed sanctuary for migrating and nesting birds, like yellow warblers.

As you walk along the Towpath Trail, take the time to appreciate the natural world around you. Industry took a toll on the land, but nature has found a way to bounce back.”

Photo: The Ohio and Erie Canal Reclaimed by Nature Sign at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Target Species



Bald Eagle

“The Bald Eagle has been the national emblem of the United States since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for native people for far longer than that. These regal birds aren’t really bald, but their white-feathered heads gleam in contrast to their chocolate-brown body and wings. Look for them soaring in solitude, chasing other birds for their food, or gathering by the hundreds in winter. Once endangered by hunting and pesticides, Bald Eagles have flourished under protection.” – The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, [Bald Eagle](#)



*Photo: Bald Eagle in Flight at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation
by Tom Fishburn*

Michelle Brosius

15 Species



Michelle visited the reservation on **January 16.**

I visited Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation on Saturday, January 16 from 9:27 a.m. – 12:07 p.m. It was a relatively chilly morning at temperatures between 34°F to 36°F throughout my visit. However, I was fortunate to have chosen a sunny day.

As soon as I exited my car I was greeted by the sweet call of a **White-throated Sparrow** in the brush by the parking lot. I hurried to don my gear and carefully crept closer to the movement. I managed to get some good looks at the bird and then noticed there were more birds hopping around in the field behind it. In all I counted eight White-throated Sparrow as they made their way across the field.

As I continued along my way, I marveled at the sights of the industrial valley and how beautifully the structures fit into the natural environment now protected by the reservation. The Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation is truly an urban oasis for wildlife.



*Photos: Urban Scenes at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation
by Michelle Brosius*

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photos: White-throated Sparrows seen upon arriving at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



I headed north along the Towpath as I knew this was the direction of the eagle's nest and was delighted to see three **Great Blue Heron** flying together overhead. That would have been an amazing photograph, but my camera was not set up properly for the shot and refused to even take a "bad" picture to tweak later. I set up my camera in time to see three **Canada Geese** flying overhead instead. Not too far down the path I happened across a very photogenic **Song Sparrow** that posed for several minutes.



Photos: Canada Geese (left) and Song Sparrow (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photo: American Black Ducks at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation
by Michelle Brosius*

After my encounter with the Song Sparrow I was happy to begin seeing juvenile **Bald Eagles** flying around the area. I counted six Bald Eagles throughout my entire visit.

When the Towpath joined up with the Cuyahoga River I decided to check out the local waterfowl. There were four **American Black Duck**, 23 **Mallards**, and one **American Wigeon** in the river that day. I met a birder on the trail who said he had seen two Common Merganser, but I had no such luck finding them.

I made my way to the Six Mile Flats Trail and this is where the real fun began on my visit. Almost immediately upon entering the woodland an adult **Bald Eagle** swooped in and perched in a tree above me! It allowed me to take some photos before flying away. I continued along the trail and observed **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Downy Woodpecker**. I was taking photos of a chickadee when a brave **Carolina Wren** flew in and landed on a branch mere feet away from me. It stayed for a few minutes and didn't seem to mind my presence at all as I snapped some really clear and crisp photos of it.

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photos: Bald Eagle Perched High in a Tree at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photos: A very photogenic Carolina Wren at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Photos: Downy Woodpecker (left) and Downy Chasing Another Downy (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Michelle Brosius

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photos: Bald Eagle Nest at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation
by Michelle Brosius*

I made my way along the Six Mile Flats Trail to where the Bald Eagle's nest is visible across the river. A Bald Eagle's nest is huge, generally 4 – 5 feet wide and 2 – 4 feet deep and can be easily seen from a distance. January is the time of year when Bald Eagles begin nesting activities in Ohio, usually returning to spruce up a previous nest or building a new one. This particular nest was discovered in 2017 and is the first active nest in Cleveland in more than a century.

“The eagle nest is a symbol of resilience, according to Wendy Weirich, the Metroparks' director of Outdoor Experiences. ‘Look at where these birds have chosen to build their nest, not that far from where the debris on the river caught fire nearly 50 years ago in 1969,’ Weirich said.” – Cleveland.com, [Bald eagles nest in Cleveland for first time in a century \(map\)](#)

On my visit, there were two **Bald Eagles** near the vicinity of the nest, one adult and one juvenile. I believe the adult to be the same one I had just seen on the trail as it had flown in the direction of the nest. The juvenile was sitting in a nearby tree and I didn't actually see it until it took off and landed deep within another tree and was out of sight. The adult took flight shortly afterward and also disappeared.

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



After a few minutes of waiting I made my way back to the Towpath, but instead of heading directly to my car I decided to check out The Lower 40 Trail in search of more birds. I saw an **American Robin** and another **Great Blue Heron**, and ran into fellow virtual field trip participant Shaun Missig. It wasn't until I returned to the Towpath that I saw my last **Bald Eagle** in a distant tree.

*Photos: Juvenile Bald Eagle at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation
by Michelle Brosius*

Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photo: Black-capped Chickadee at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation
by Michelle Brosius*

Bird List

1. Canada Goose
2. American Wigeon
3. Mallard
4. American Black Duck
5. Ring-billed Gull
6. Great Blue Heron
7. Bald Eagle
8. Downy Woodpecker
9. Blue Jay
10. Black-capped Chickadee
11. Carolina Wren
12. American Robin
13. White-throated Sparrow
14. Song Sparrow
15. Northern Cardinal

Allen Rand

40 Species



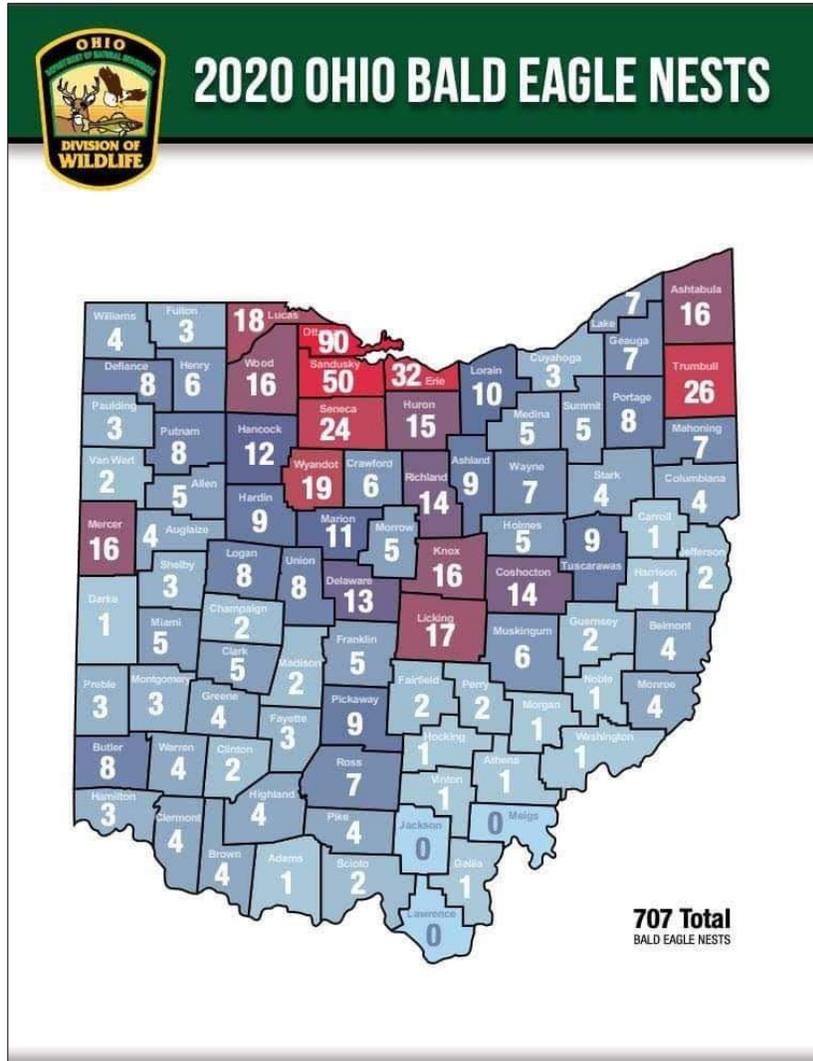
Al birded at the reservation **FOUR** times!

This month's location was full of surprises for the time of year. I had never been to the trails around the CanalWay Center, so I checked them out a few times. My other lists were from the E49th Street Sewer District Outflow. Although I fell short of the January 100, many of the birds I saw on my trips helped me get to my Ohio total of 93; even saw one of the resident beavers.



Photos: American Kestrel (left) and Beaver (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Al Rand

Allen Rand (cont.)



I visited on 1/9, 1/17, 1/24, 1/30. As for the target species, there are at least 4, maybe 5, Bald Eagles that live over there. I had 4 in flight all at the same time one afternoon. It's hard to differentiate adults in flight, but the coloration of the juveniles are more distinct. There are 3 juveniles for sure because I had them all in one tree on 1/30. On the topic of eagles, the Ohio Division of Wildlife has only 3 active nests on record for Cuyahoga County. Based on the number of eagles I see in the county, I'm thinking there may be more. I'm going to dedicate February and March to finding more than 3. I can be reached at allen.rand1978@gmail.com if you know of an active nest in Cuyahoga County or want to look with me.

Photo: 2020 Ohio Bald Eagle Nests by Ohio Division of Wildlife

Allen Rand (cont.)



Photo: Mallard x American Black Duck Hybrid at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Al Rand

Bird List

1. Wood Duck
2. Gadwall
3. Mallard
4. American Black Duck
5. Mallard x American Black Duck Hybrid
6. Common Goldeneye
7. Common Merganser
8. Red-breasted Merganser
9. Pied-billed Grebe
10. Northern Pintail
11. Pigeon
12. Mourning Dove
13. Ring-billed Gull
14. Double-Crested Cormorant
15. Great Blue Heron
16. Bald Eagle
17. Red-tailed Hawk
18. Belted Kingfisher
19. Downy Woodpecker
20. Merlin
21. Northern Flicker
22. American Kestrel
23. Blue Jay
24. American Crow
25. Black-capped Chickadee
26. White-breasted Nuthatch
27. Carolina Wren
28. Brown Creeper
29. Northern Mockingbird
30. European Starling
31. American Robin
32. House Finch
33. American Goldfinch
34. Fox Sparrow
35. American Tree Sparrow
36. Dark-eyed Junco
37. White-throated Sparrow
38. Song Sparrow
39. Red-winged Blackbird
40. Northern Cardinal

Shaun Missig

28 Species



Shaun visited Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation **SIX** times!

I have been to this location a few times in the past, but that was for the mountain bike trails. I was unaware of everything that was in this area, and I was ready to explore! My first 2 trips (1/3 and 1/9) were sadly uneventful. I did hear a kingfisher on both trips, but it eluded me as usual and had plenty of places to hide. I did see the usual blue jays, songbirds and a few eagles, but they were out of range.

January 16

1/16 was when my luck turned around! As I was walking along the path, I happened to see Michelle and she gave me tips about an American Wigeon, and also how to view the eagles nest that I did not know was there. Little did I know, this was going to be one of my best days yet. I made my way around the path and stopped to take a picture of the random set of train wheels just sitting on the bank. After I got my shot, I looked to my left and a **Coyote** trotted across the path! Unfortunately I didn't have time to get the camera up and snap a shot, but it was surely a sight to behold. After I went around the bend, I found the area where the **American Wigeon** (lifer) was sleeping. I took my time and snapped plenty of shots, but I had hoped I would be able to get a headshot on the way back since it was still sleeping. While taking pictures of the Wigeon, a **Kingfisher** came screaming by and landed further downstream. This was now my next goal, get a picture of the Kingfisher that had taunted me on all of my trips.



Photo: American Wigeon at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



When I entered the hiking path (yellow sign) I found a way to get to the bank of the river. It didn't take long, and I located the **Kingfisher!** Situations like this remind me that I need to invest in a longer zoom lens, but it was still within range to get a decent shot. After I got these shots, I thought my day was complete. I was happy with everything I had captured so far, and then came the **eagles**. I saw several juveniles near the nest area and also flying back towards the entrance to the path. I was able to get a few flight shots, but hoped to get better shots on my way back. Surely this was it, right? Not a chance! As I made my way off of the hiking trail, a bird flew in front of me and landed on the electrical tower. I started taking pictures, but it was not facing me and I couldn't get a positive ID for it. I left the area for a moment and walked back in from the other direction. Now it had turned around so I could see its face. It looked like a small juvenile hawk, but I couldn't tell for sure from the distance I was at. When I ran the image through Merlin, it came back as an **American Kestrel** (lifer)! This was truly a surprise, and an amazing bird! It stayed long enough for me to get some shots and then flew into the woods. I also happened to look up at the top of the hill and there were 2 Kestrels flying above the electrical wires and they almost appeared to be floating or hovering with little to no effort. On my way back I was able to capture the **Wigeon** with its head out, and I also captured more shots of the Eagles. BEST day of birding I've ever had!

Photos: American Kestrels at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photos: Belted Kingfisher at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photos: Juvenile Bald Eagle at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



January 17

I returned on 1/17 to see if I could find the Kestrels again, but they were gone. Many of the other birds were not around either and I thought that would be it for the month. I was proven wrong again! My trips on 1/23 and 1/30 were very similar, with birds being much more active.

January 23

1/23 started off with my first ever sighting of **Common Mergansers** (lifer), and they were very aware of my presence even though I was on the trail and they were many feet below in the river. I had also noticed several **Gulls** circling up and down the river looking for a meal. I was able to find a location along the bank where I had a perfect view of where they were hunting, and I captured a gull with its catch! I had made my way back to the hiking trail and went down to the river this time. There I found a whole flock of Common Mergansers, and got a few shots before they flew away. The best was yet to come though. While taking pictures of the gulls, a **Red-tailed Hawk** hovered above and allowed me to get some great overhead flight shots. I also happened to run into this hawk again by the Blue Heron boardwalk. It flew through the trees and out to the original path I started on. I made my way back to that path and tried my best to be stealthy so I could get a picture of this beautiful bird.

Thankfully it didn't even care that I was there and I was able to sit on the bench and take as many pictures as I wanted. I snapped plenty of shots, and was able to capture its departure from the area. A wonderful way to end that day.



*Photo: Common Mergansers at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation
by Shaun Missig*

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photos: Gull with a Fish (left) and Red-tailed Hawk (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photos: Red-tailed Hawk at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



LIFER!



January 30

On 1/30, I found my 4th lifer for this trip! A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were mixed in with the **Mallards** on the river. I was surprised to see them, but also enjoyed their presence. I continued walking by the river, and it had 1 more trick up its sleeve! I was photographing a juvenile **Bald Eagle** in a tree across the river and it took off. Only, it started to circle above the river close by where I was at and soared over the area for quite some time. At this point I was wondering if it knew what it was doing as it allowed me to get some spectacular overhead flight shots! I couldn't have asked for a better end to my adventures here. This place is nothing short of magical, and it is now easily in my top 5 favorite places! I will be back many times this year!

Photo: Hooded Merganser at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photos: Juvenile Bald Eagle at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photos: Downy Woodpecker (left) and Canada Geese (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



A Poem

Just a walk in the park, or so it seemed
The beauty I saw was more than I had dreamed
Endless adventure on countless trails
Playful Eagles, and soaring Red Tails

The river flowing despite the cold
Held even more life for me to behold
From Mallards to Geese, Mergansers and a Wigeon
I think I saw everything! Except for a Pigeon

The gulls patrolling from the sky
An attack from above, a meal on every try
A Kingfisher taunting me at every turn
3 American Kestrels, another lifer earned

A Coyote came running across the trail
A herd of deer, all with white tails
And as I looked from side to side
So many squirrels, all trying to hide



Photo: Squirrel at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Flocks of songbirds searching for berries
Look a woodpecker! Is that a Downy or Hairy?
Just then, a Carolina Wren flew by
And a flock of Heron dominated the sky

In the distance, a faint call could be heard
Wait a minute! That was no bird!
Quickly a train roared through the valley
While the days numbers I tallied

My gear now put away, I sat in my truck
Looking back on the day, I had tremendous luck
Was this all something I had dreamed?
Or just a walk in the park, as it seemed...



Photo: White-throated Sparrow at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photo: Great Blue Heron at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Species List

1. Blue Jay
2. Northern Cardinal
3. Song Sparrow
4. White-throated Sparrow
5. **Bald Eagle**
6. Great Blue Heron
7. Seagull
8. Cormorant (flying overhead)
9. Canadian Goose
10. Mallard
11. White-breasted Nuthatch
12. Black-capped Chickadee
13. Downy Woodpecker

Shaun Missig (cont.)



Species List (cont.)

14. Hairy Woodpecker
15. Belted Kingfisher
16. American Black Duck
17. Red-bellied Woodpecker
18. Carolina Wren
19. American Robin
20. Coyote
21. Whitetail Deer
22. Fox Squirrel
23. Red-tailed Hawk
24. American Goldfinch
25. American Wigeon
26. Common Merganser
27. Hooded Merganser
28. American Kestrel



Photo: Hooded Mergansers at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Shaun Missig

Nancy Howell

33 Species



Nancy birded at the reservation **TWO** times.

January 10 & 23

In January I was able to make two visits to the Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation, Sunday, January 10 and Saturday, January 23, for the Western Cuyahoga Audubon virtual field trip. A total of 33 species were sighted on the two visits. Forecast for the 10th was partly cloudy, and after days of clouds, it would be great to see the sun. The 23rd was the coldest day we have had this winter with temps in the high teens/low 20's. It took awhile for the sun to appear on both days, but when it did the days were lovely.

The Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation is in the industrial valley of the Cuyahoga River. Besides the canal and industrial sites nearby, there are also power line and gas line corridors, and a busy set of elevated railroad tracks. No matter, nature has softened the landscape with diverse vegetation in different habitats; forests, shrubs, fields and wetlands provide plenty to see ... then there is the Cuyahoga River. The canal and shallower wetlands and pools of the park were frozen, but the Cuyahoga was open and attracted birds.



Photo: Industrial Landscape at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Nancy Howell (cont.)



Photo: Immature Bald Eagle in Tree at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Nancy Howell

While the river had productive birding, there were plenty of places that supported songbirds and woodpeckers. **Canada Geese**, **Mallards**, **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Great Blue Heron**, **Ring-billed Gull**, and **Bald Eagle** being the more common birds on or over the river. **Blue Jays**, **White-throated Sparrows** and **Carolina Wren** did call along the path with only the jays being readily seen. On the second visit, a flock of **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **American Tree Sparrows** and **White-throated Sparrows** greeted me early on the trail. During the first visit a flock of **Mallards** circled several times, 2 females and 6 males. More than likely a courtship flight ... which of the “guys” could keep up and impress the ladies.

The wooded areas along the river did produce several **Hairy**, **Downy** and **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**. **White-breasted Nuthatch** were busy “singing” on the second visit, possibly due to the sun being out despite the cold temperature. Places along the path where the river could be seen there were many small groups of **Mallards** with a few **American Black Ducks** mixed in, some swimming, some on the muddy river banks. My first visit had **Ring-billed Gulls** high over the river, but on the second visit a flock of **Herring Gulls** worked the river near a low dam. They were waiting for fish to go over the dam so they could be seen and caught more easily. Interesting behavior and great views of adult, first-cycle and second-cycle plumages. **Canada Geese** could be heard but not seen. When I finally did see the geese, there were lots of them. On both visits **Common Mergansers** were mixed with the geese.

Nancy Howell (cont.)



A dirt trail, luckily frozen on both visits, took me closer to the river. More **Bald Eagles**, **Great Blue Herons**, **Mallards** and **Black Ducks**. Lots more **Canada Geese** and **Common Mergansers**. A **Mallard x Black Duck** hybrid was also mixed in with the other waterfowl. A **Belted Kingfisher** made an appearance each visit. The **Common Mergansers** were gorgeous, males looking sharp with deep green heads, dark backs and bright white breasts and flanks that really stood out. Females, with their shaggy heads and gray backs, were lovely. All sported the long orange-red merganser beak. **Jays** and **woodpeckers** were added to the eBird list as well.

Wanting to see the **Bald Eagle** nest I continued walking. A view of the river allowed me to scan the waterfowl on the second visit and I am glad I did as a **Pied-billed Grebe** bobbed around among the ducks. Songbirds seemed to be in pockets both times I visited. **American Robins** were feeding on honeysuckle and crabapple fruits at various points. Mixed flocks of sparrows were feeding in the grasses along the all-purpose trail. Always scan the sparrow flocks since 2, 3 or more species might be seen. **White-throated Sparrows** were the most common species, but a couple of **Song Sparrows**, several **American Tree Sparrows**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, and, on the first trip, a lovely male **Eastern Towhee** popped into view. **Northern Cardinals**, **Downy Woodpeckers**, several **American Goldfinch**, **House Finch**, **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **Carolina Wrens** were part of the mash-up of species.



Photo: Common Mergansers at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Nancy Howell

Nancy Howell (cont.)



Both trips I reached the eagle's nest, but no eagles were present on or near the nest either time. It is large and there is the possibility that a bird was hunkered down in the nest and could not be seen. The second trip I walked a little further and spotted a **Northern Mockingbird** guarding a fruit laden shrub not too far from one of the industries and male **House Finch** were singing. More **American Robins** dashed across the all-purpose trail feeding on fruits. I love to look at robins in the winter. A couple of additional species were seen as I turned to head back. These included **Red-tailed Hawks** and on visit one, a **Northern Flicker** and visit two, a **Mourning Dove**. I continued adding a few more **Northern Cardinals** that either I missed on my way north, or they became more active. What a terrific couple of visits along the mighty Cuyahoga.

Photo: Vegetation, blue skies and all-purpose trail at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Nancy Howell

Nancy Howell (cont.)



Photo: Canada Geese on rocky island in the Cuyahoga River by Nancy Howell

Bird List

1. Canada Goose
2. Mallard
3. American Black Duck
4. Mallard x American Black Duck hybrid
5. Common Merganser
6. Pied-billed Grebe
7. Mourning Dove
8. Ring-billed Gull
9. Herring Gull
10. Double-crested Cormorant
11. Great Blue Heron
12. Bald Eagle
13. Red-tailed Hawk
14. Belted Kingfisher
15. Red-bellied Woodpecker
16. Downy Woodpecker
17. Hairy Woodpecker
18. Northern Flicker
19. Blue Jay
20. Black-capped Chickadee
21. Tufted Titmouse
22. White-breasted Nuthatch
23. Carolina Wren
24. Northern Mockingbird
25. American Robin
26. House Finch
27. American Goldfinch
28. American Tree Sparrow
29. Dark-eyed Junco
30. White-throated Sparrow
31. Song Sparrow
32. Eastern Towhee
33. Northern Cardinal

Tom Fishburn



Tom visited the reservation **THREE** times!

I visited O&E Canal Reservation three times in January: the 10th, 13th, and 21st.

I did not know where the eagles' nest was until my second visit. On my first visit I did not walk far north. But I did see two eagles: one juvenile close perched by the river, the second was the adult I saw flying south when I was leaving. The second visit is when I saw several juveniles up nearby the nest. One was perched, and four others were in the air. On my third visit I only saw one juvenile flying high in the vicinity of the nest. I never did see activity directly on the eagles' nest.

Most special was seeing the wigeon and mergansers on both the 13th and 21st when I hiked further.



Photo: American Wigeon at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



January 10



Photos: Adult Bald Eagle (left) and Juvenile Bald Eagle (Est. 3+ Years Old) (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



January 13



Photos: Young Red-tailed Hawk (left) and Female Common Merganser (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



Photos: A female Common Merganser takes off (left) and leaves this male Common Merganser in the dust, uh, splash (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



Photos: Young Bald Eagle passes a perched eagle (left) and then flew north along the Cuyahoga River (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



“Common Mergansers mostly eat fish, but they also eat aquatic invertebrates (including insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and worms), frogs, small mammals, birds, and plants.”
– Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
[Common Merganser](#)

Photos: A group of Common Mergansers (left) and a female Common Merganser feeding (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



January 21



Photos: Downy Woodpecker hanging around the Blue Heron Boardwalk (left) and the same Downy Woodpecker higher up (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



Photos: American Wigeon doing stretches (left) and American Wigeon with a pair of Mallards (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



Photos: A female Red-bellied Woodpecker (left) and Juvenile Bald Eagle (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Tom Fishburn (cont.)



Photos: American Black Duck in the Cuyahoga River (left) and American Black Duck Pair (right) at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Thank you!



Photo: Female Northern Cardinal Enjoying Berries at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation by Tom Fishburn

Al Rand
Shaun Missig
Nancy Howell
Tom Fishburn

&

**Cleveland Metroparks for
Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation!**

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation is located
at 4524 E 49th St, Cleveland, OH 44125.

Visit wcaudubon.org for more virtual field
trip opportunities!