



# March 2021 Virtual Field Trip: **North Chagrin Reservation**

Bird Walk Leader: Michelle Brosius

WCAS Board Member and Field Trip Co-Coordinator

# North Chagrin Reservation



*Photo: Oxbow Lagoon at North Chagrin Reservation by Michelle Brosius*

“Since the 1920s, North Chagrin Reservation has been a special combination of outdoor recreation areas and wildlife sanctuaries. North Chagrin trails and picnic areas feature woodlands and wetlands as important characteristics of this large reservation. Located in Mayfield Village, Willoughby Hills and Gates Mills, the reservation includes a nature center and nature education building. Sanctuary Marsh and Sunset Pond are both popular areas to observe waterfowl, and Squire’s Castle is an interesting historical site.” – [Cleveland Metroparks, North Chagrin Reservation](#)

“Accessed just south of Squire's Castle off Chagrin River Road, Oxbow Lagoon is a separated wetland from the Chagrin River. The footprint of this biodiverse wetland marks a historic flow path of the river.” – [Cleveland Metroparks, Oxbow Lagoon](#)

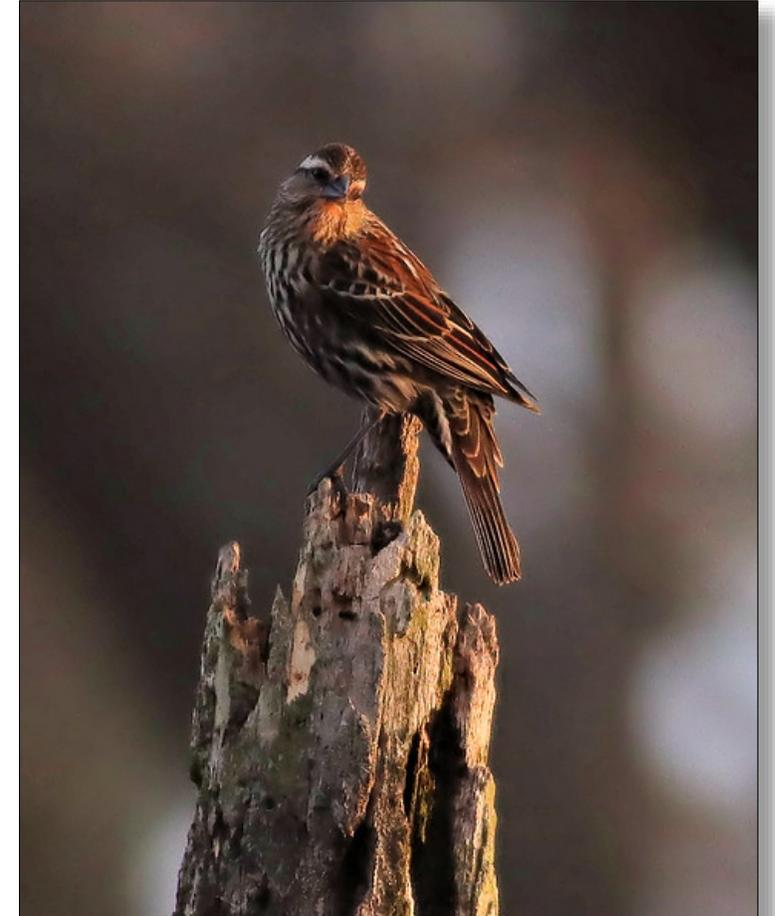
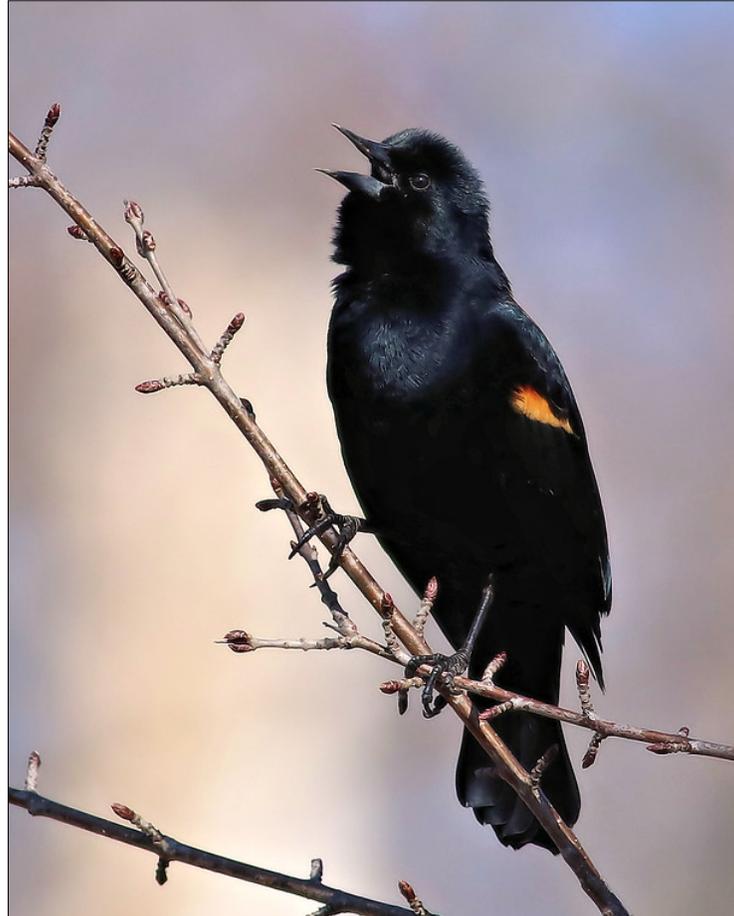
For a complete history of the reservation, including how the land was acquired, a failed bid to connect both North and South Chagrin Reservations, and the opening of a trailside nature center which is believed to be the first in the country, please visit [Case Western Reserve University, Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, North Chagrin Reservation](#).

# Target Species



## Red-winged Blackbird

“One of the most abundant birds across North America, and one of the most boldly colored, the Red-winged Blackbird is a familiar sight atop cattails, along soggy roadsides, and on telephone wires. Glossy-black males have scarlet-and-yellow shoulder patches they can puff up or hide depending on how confident they feel. Females are a subdued, streaky brown, almost like a large, dark sparrow. Their early and tumbling song are happy indications of the return of spring.” – The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, [Red-winged Blackbird](#)



*Photos: Male (left) and Female (right) Red-winged Blackbird at North Chagrin Reservation by Tom Fishburn*

# Michelle Brosius

21 Species



## Michelle visited the reservation on **March 7.**

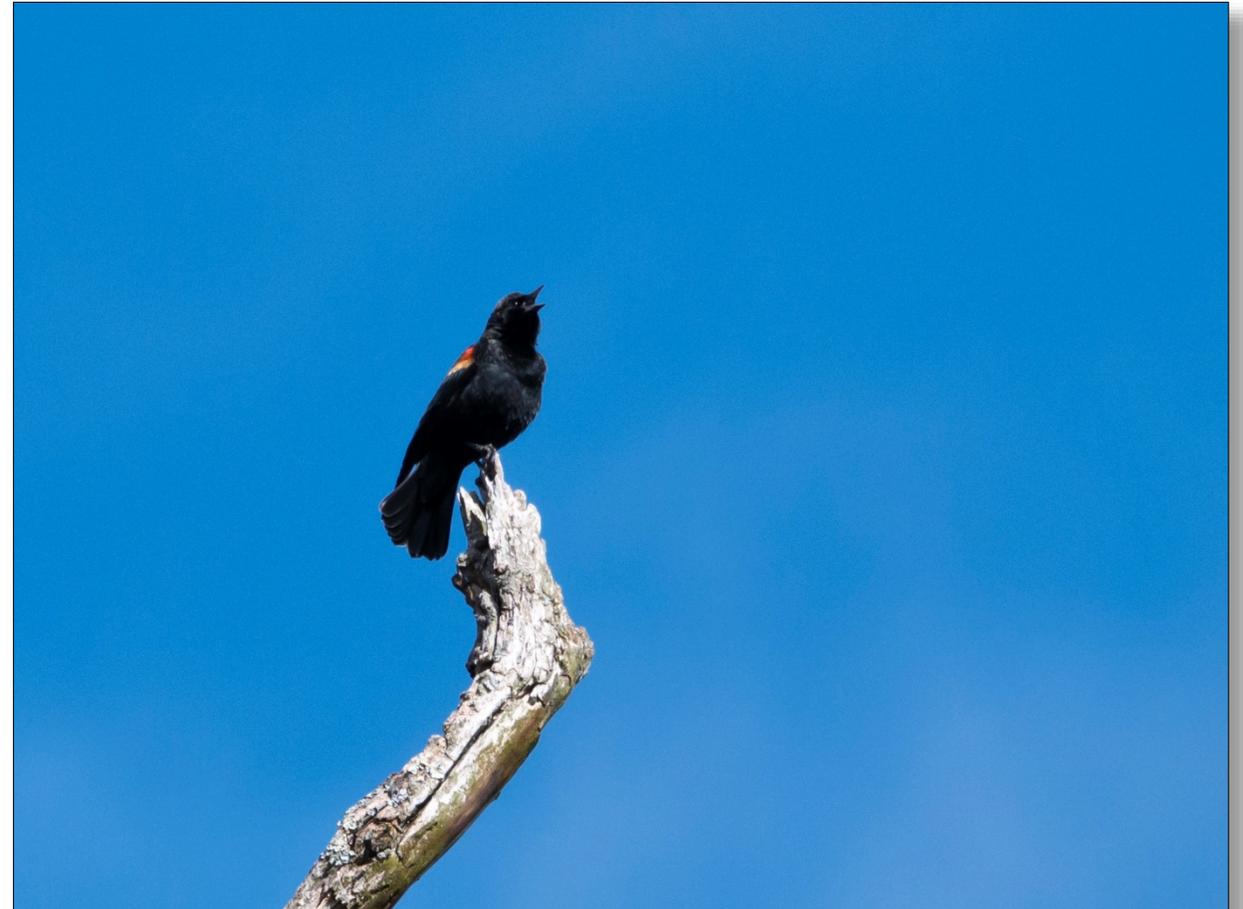
I visited both Oxbow Lagoon and Sunset Pond/Sanctuary Marsh at North Chagrin Nature Center on March 7, 2021.

I arrived at Oxbow Lagoon at 9:21 a.m. where I met a friend, Aimee, for the morning's excursion. The temperature was in the low 30s. We had never visited this site before and were pleasantly surprised by its beauty coupled with the charming boardwalk. The male **Red-winged Blackbirds** were out and singing their "o-ka-leeee!" song, but were high up in the trees. Still, I counted six total during my visit that morning. The Red-winged Blackbird was actually my "spark bird" back in 2017 when I attended a bird walk during a women's retreat at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I will always be thrilled to see (and hear) them.

Soon we heard a different call, the "cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk" of a **Pileated Woodpecker**! We backtracked a little toward the sound and were so lucky to see a beautiful female swoop in and climb around for several minutes on a dead tree that was split into a fork, and had the pleasure of watching her leap from one side to the other.

### *Birding Lingo!*

A "spark bird" is the bird that "ignites" one's enthusiasm for birding.



*Photo: Red-winged Blackbird at Oxbow Lagoon by Michelle Brosius*

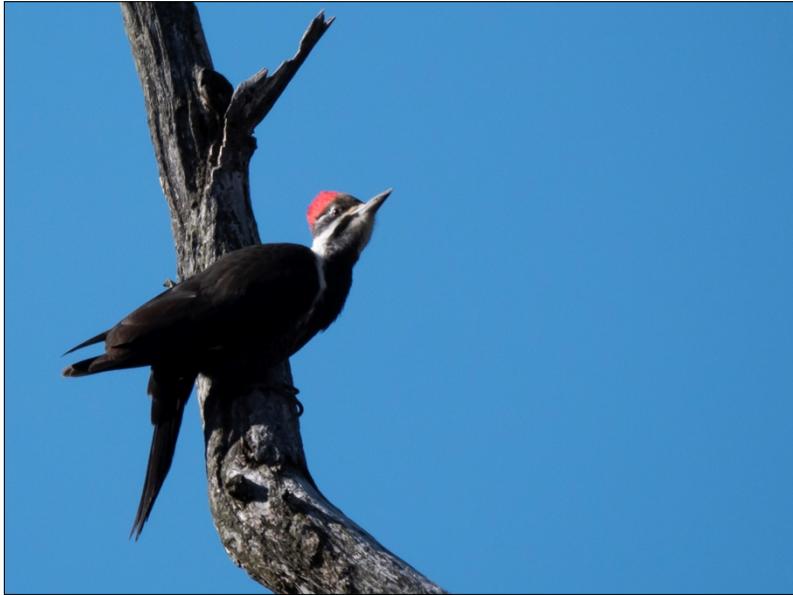
# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photos: Female Pileated Woodpecker at Oxbow Lagoon by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)

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*Photos: Female Pileated Woodpecker at Oxbow Lagoon by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



We stayed until the woodpecker decided to leave us and then we made our way along the trail toward Old River Farm Picnic Area. There was an abundance of life along Lily Loop Trail, including **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, and **Eastern Bluebird**.



*Photo: Black-capped Chickadee Along Lily Loop Trail by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photos: Red-bellied Woodpecker Along Lily Loop Trail by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photos: Red Squirrel (different individuals) Along Lily Loop Trail by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



Upon our return to Oxbow Lagoon we came across a female **American Robin**. However, I'm used to seeing much brighter robins and was momentarily confused about an identification until I got a better look. A male American Robin soon showed himself to us in more vibrant, familiar colors. A **Turkey Vulture** was also spotted on the way out, soaring above.



*Photos: Female (left) and Male (right) American Robin at Oxbow Lagoon by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



After Oxbow Lagoon, Aimee and I arrived at North Chagrin Nature Center at 10:53 a.m. and the temperature was now in the mid 30s. Two **Cooper's Hawks** swooped in while we were still in the parking area, one juvenile and one mature.



*Photos: Juvenile (left) and Mature (right) Cooper's Hawk at North Chagrin Nature Center Parking Lot by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



We started out at Sunset Pond, which provided us only with five **Canada Geese**, two couples lazily napping and then one random goose that noisily flew through, momentarily upsetting both couples. As we rounded behind the nature center toward Sanctuary Marsh I spotted a **White-breasted Nuthatch**. I was then delighted to finally get a good look at an **American Tree Sparrow**. The only other time I've ever seen one was back in 2018 on an Audubon-led excursion when I was relatively new to birding. I happened to get 44 lifers on that trip and must admit the American Tree Sparrow I saw that day just did not stand out to me and went unappreciated. Therefore, this sighting had the same feeling as getting a lifer (I may have done a little dance), but alas, no lifer award for me.

Also seen at Sanctuary Marsh were more **Red-winged Blackbird** (these were much closer to us than the birds at Oxbow Lagoon), **Downy Woodpecker**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **House Sparrow**, and **White-throated Sparrow**.



*Photo: American Tree Sparrow at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)

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*Photos: American Tree Sparrow at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)

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*Photos: American Tree Sparrow at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photos: White-breasted Nuthatch at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)

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*Photos: House Sparrow (left) and Red-winged Blackbird (right) at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)

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*Photos: Red-winged Blackbird at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photos: Red-winged Blackbird at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)

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*Photos: Black-capped Chickadee at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)

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*Photos: White-throated Sparrow at Sanctuary Marsh by Michelle Brosius*

# Michelle Brosius (cont.)



*Photo: American Tree Sparrow at Sanctuary Marsh  
by Michelle Brosius*

## Bird List

1. Canada Goose
2. Mourning Dove
3. Turkey Vulture
4. **Cooper's Hawk**
5. Red-bellied Woodpecker
6. Downy Woodpecker
7. **Pileated Woodpecker**
8. Blue Jay
9. American Crow
10. Black-capped Chickadee
11. Tufted Titmouse
12. **Eastern Bluebird**
13. White-breasted Nuthatch
14. American Robin
15. House Sparrow
16. **American Tree Sparrow**
17. White-throated Sparrow
18. Dark-eyed Junco
19. Song Sparrow
20. **Red-winged Blackbird**
21. Northern Cardinal

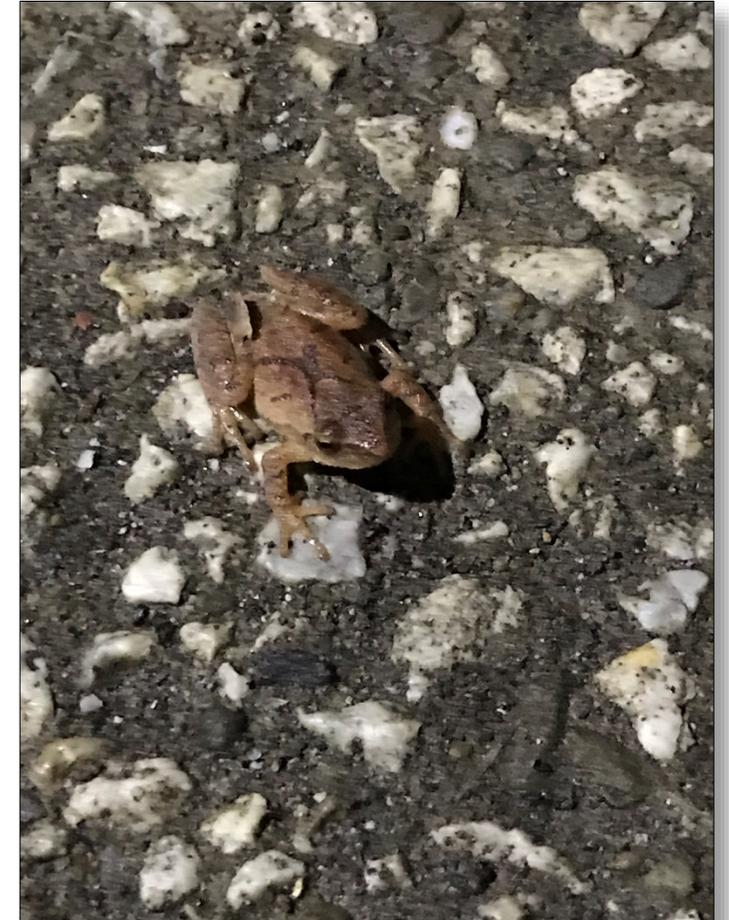
# AI Rand

20 Species



## AI visited the reservation **twice!**

I made two trips to the Gates Mills Trailhead, March 11 and March 18. Although I'm always prepared to bird, these trips were made with the intent to find salamanders. There are 4 or 5 species that will migrate in March. Weather needs to be warm and rainy and it needs to be dark outside before they run. Salamanders migrate from their burrows to vernal pools to lay their eggs before returning to their burrows. In addition to salamanders, frogs are out for the same reason. Although the weather seemed favorable, the rain did not fall as expected. However, the amphibians were out.



*Photo: Metroparks Sign (left) and Spring Peeper (right) at Gates Mills Trailhead by AI Rand*

# Al Rand (cont.)



*Photos: Wood Frog (left) and Red-backed Salamander (right) at Gates Mills Trailhead by Al Rand*

# AI Rand (cont.)



*Photos: Oil Beetle sp. (left) and Spotted Salamander (right) at Gates Mills Trailhead by Al Rand*

# AI Rand (cont.)



*Photos: Jefferson Salamander (left) and Unisexual Hybrid Mole Salamander (right) at Gates Mills Trailhead by AI Rand*

# AI Rand (cont.)



Although not photographed at North Chagrin Reservation, this encounter was a highlight of AI's amphibian migration observations this spring.

*Photo: Spotted Salamander and Wood Frog Stare-Down in Brecksville by AI Rand*

# Allen Rand (cont.)



## Bird & Species List

1. Canada Goose
2. Wood Duck
3. Mallard
4. American Black Duck
5. Mallard x American Black Duck Hybrid
6. Turkey Vulture
7. Red-bellied Woodpecker
8. Blue Jay
9. Black-capped Chickadee
10. Eastern Bluebird
11. American Robin
12. Northern Cardinal
13. Spring Peeper
14. Wood Frog
15. Oil Beetle sp.
16. Red-backed Salamander
17. Eastern Newt
18. Jefferson Salamander
19. Unisexual Hybrid Mole Salamander
20. Spotted Salamander

Photos: Eastern Newt (left) and Spotted Salamander (right) at Gates Mills Trailhead by Al Rand

# Shaun Missig

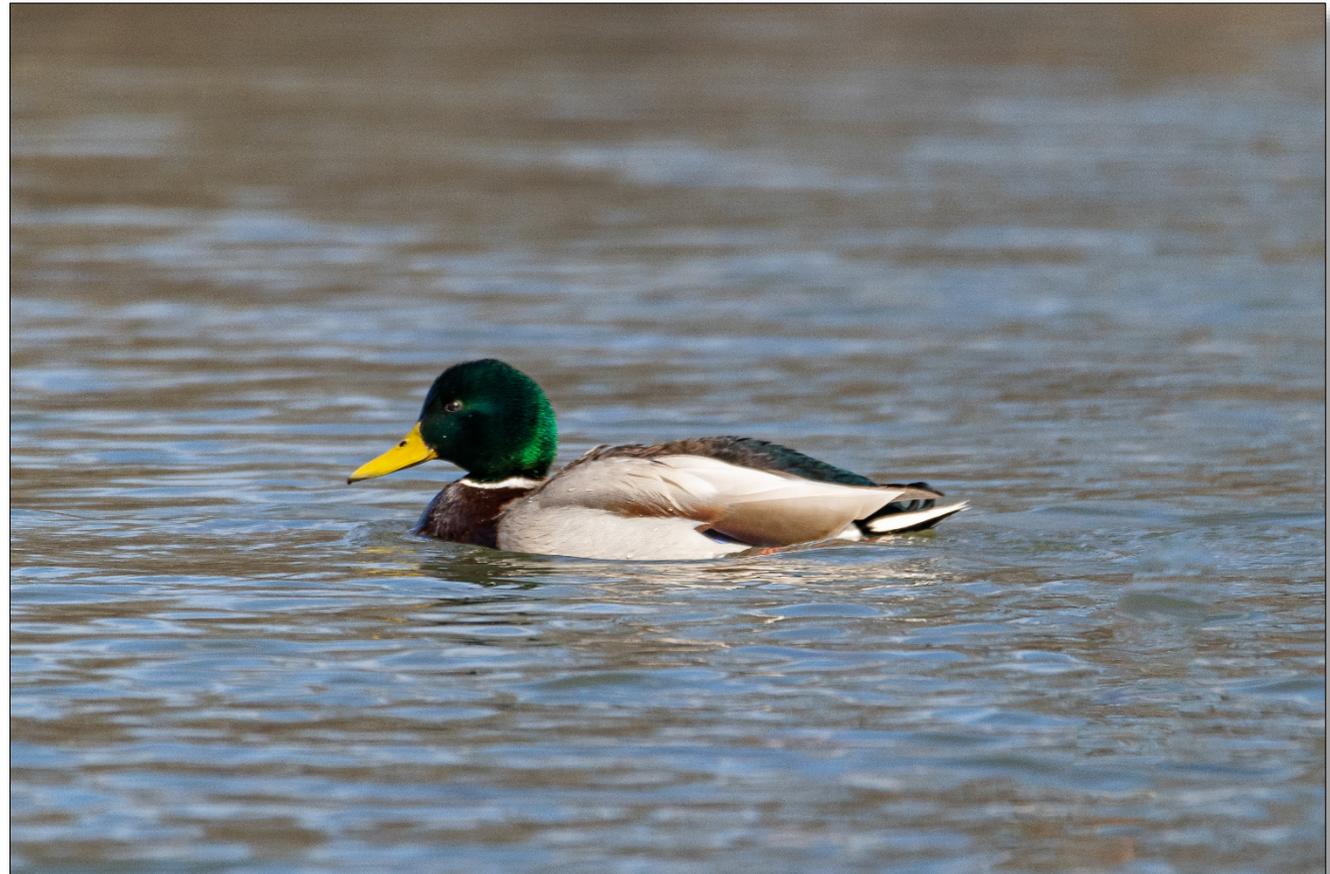
21 Species



## Shaun visited the reservation **FIVE** times!

Dates Visited - 3/1, 3/6, 3/14, 3/21, and 3/28. North Chagrin Reservation is somewhere I have not explored enough. In the past I have visited Squire's Castle, but have not seen much else beyond that. With this being our location for March, I now realize just how much I've missed out on all these years, and this time I was ready! For this trip I finally had the lens I have been wanting for awhile now. The Tamron 150-600 would give me that extra reach I was looking for, and hopefully take my photography to a new level.

Each trip I started at Oxbow Lagoon. This area has beautiful scenery, and a nice short path to walk on. My trips earlier in the month didn't yield as much as later in the month, however there was always something to see there. I heard many **Red-winged Blackbirds**, however they were very good at hiding or landing within the reeds or brush where I couldn't get to. They also perched very high in the trees during the early part of the month where they would sit and make their calls for what seemed like hours on end. I saw many **Red-tailed Hawk** and **Turkey Vulture** flyover while I was there, but I was unable to get any overhead shots due to needing more practice with my new lens. There were always **Mallards** and **Canada Geese** in the larger body of water, and I did happen to find some **Wood Ducks** on 3/21.



*Photo: Mallard at Oxbow Lagoon by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



*Photos: Tufted Titmouse (left) and Wood Duck (right) at Oxbow Lagoon by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



March 21<sup>st</sup> also brought me a **Beaver** as well! The Beaver was just sitting on a downed tree, and at first I wasn't sure if it was an animal or some plants in the water. So I decided to take some pictures of it anyway, and I'm glad I did! This was the first time I was able to photograph a Beaver in the wild, and it made my trip!

*Photos: Beaver at Oxbow Lagoon by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



After each stop at Oxbow Lagoon, I then made my way to the North Chagrin Nature Center. This location was a jackpot for me, and it also provided me with three lifers! In the beginning of March when it was still colder, the bird feeders were still up at the Nature Center. This helped me to capture many of the birds on their approach to the feeders. On 3/6 I captured my first lifer, a male **House Finch**! At first I was in shock that I had finally seen one, but I quickly got over that so I could continue shooting. The second lifer for 3/6 was a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. This one was sitting on a branch and did not move the entire time I was taking its picture. I also saw a **Common Grackle**. Even though their name has "Common" in it, I have not been able to photograph these birds. There was a large flock perched in a few trees close to the pond at the nature center. These birds are almost chameleon like in the way that their feathers change from black to almost every other color in the sunlight. Truly a sight to behold.



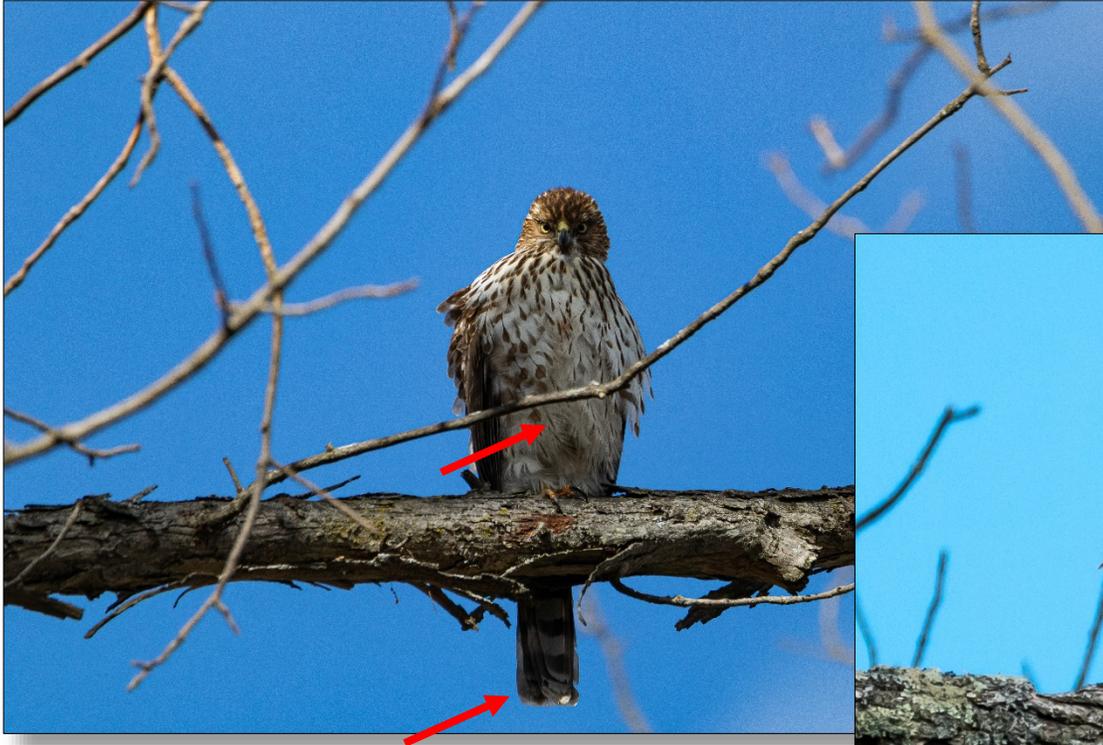
*Photo: Male House Finch at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



*Photos: Sharp-shinned Hawk (left) and Common Grackle (right) at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



## Tip!

Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk identification is often confusing as the two birds look so similar. However, a key indicator is in the tip of the tail. A Sharp-shinned Hawk has a squared-off tail whereas a Cooper's Hawk tail is more rounded. This difference can be seen whether the bird is perched or in flight. Also, in immature hawks, a Sharpie will have heavier streaking on the chest that extends down onto the belly, whereas a Coop belly will be free of streaking.

*Photos: Juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk (left) by Shaun Missig and Juvenile Cooper's Hawk (right) by Michelle Brosius at North Chagrin Nature Center*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



Yes, these two lifers were great captures, but the **Red-winged Blackbirds** definitely stole the show here! They were everywhere! Calling back and forth, one right after the other, and it was almost the only call you could hear while near the pond. These Red-winged Blackbirds were much more cooperative too, as they perched on the reeds and cattails, which made for some spectacular photos! I've always enjoyed photographing these birds on cattails, especially when the wind is blowing and they are rocking back and forth with the cattail. They never seem to let go!

*Photo: Male Red-winged Blackbird at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)

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*Photos: Male Red-winged Blackbirds at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



*Photos: Male Red-winged Blackbirds at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



*Photos: Male Red-winged Blackbirds at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



My third lifer came on 3/21, and it was an **Eastern Phoebe**! I saw this bird high up in a tree and noticed that its shape was unknown to me. The tail was longer than any of the songbirds I have seen, but it also didn't appear to be very colorful either. I was able to snap a few shots before someone walking by scared it away. I wanted to spend all of my time at the nature center, but I knew there were miles of trails to explore.



*Photo: Eastern Phoebe at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



The trails located in the area around the nature center were absolutely wonderful! I felt like I was in the middle of nowhere, but everything was still close by. It was quiet and peaceful on my walks, but there was not much life scattered throughout. I did find certain areas that seemed to hold more life than others. **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Tufted Titmice**, and **White-breasted Nuthatches** were prevalent in these areas, along with the squirrels and chipmunks. At one point I was photographing a small flock of nuthatches in the distance and I caught a very lucky shot. This nuthatch had a seed of some sort and it dropped the seed. It then chased the seed as it was falling next to the tree. I was able to capture this bird reaching for the seed, and I didn't even know it until I looked at my pictures on the computer.



*Photos: White-breasted Nuthatch at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)

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*Photos: Great Blue Heron (left) and Painted Turtle (right) at North Chagrin Reservation by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)

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*Photos: Red-tailed Hawk at North Chagrin Reservation by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



*Photos: Red-bellied Woodpecker at North Chagrin Reservation by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)

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*Photos: House Sparrow (left) and Northern Cardinal (right) at North Chagrin Reservation by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



The best trail walk came on 3/28. I decided to walk the trails across from the nature center (Museum Trail to Sylvan loop to Overlook trail), instead of those located behind (Buttermilk Falls trail to Hickory Fox Loop). I continued to walk the museum trail until I made it to the Sylvan loop. This loop trail was shorter but had some wonderful scenery. I then made my way to the Overlook Trail until I made it to the Dinger's Marsh Overlook. The view was spectacular here, and I will be coming back to this spot once the green returns to this valley. I also realized that I didn't have my landscape lens with me and I had to take the picture with my phone. Thankfully they have improved the cameras in phones, and I was happy with the shot, but I learned my lesson! Further up the trail was a small shelter that had a few benches in it. When I stopped here, the **Chickadees**, **Titmice**, and **Nuthatches** were not afraid of me and almost landed on my lens! This appeared to be a popular spot for people to feed the birds, however I did not see any seeds at this time. There was one nuthatch that stole the show. It landed on a tree close to me and allowed me to take many close up pictures of it. This was the perfect way to end my journey through the woods.



*Photo: Overlook at North Chagrin Reservation by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)

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*Photos: White-breasted Nuthatch at North Chagrin Reservation by Shaun Missig*

# Shaun Missig (cont.)



Photo: Male Red-winged Blackbird at North Chagrin Nature Center by Shaun Missig

## Bird & Species List

1. Canada Goose
2. Red-winged Blackbird
3. Northern Cardinal
4. Wood Duck
5. Mallard
6. Red-tailed Hawk
7. White-throated Sparrow
8. Blue Jay
9. Black-capped Chickadee
10. Common Grackle
11. Sharp-shinned Hawk
12. Eastern Bluebird
13. Tufted Titmouse
14. White-breasted Nuthatch
15. House Finch
16. Tree Sparrow
17. House Sparrow
18. Turkey Vulture
19. Great Blue Heron
20. Eastern Phoebe
21. Beaver

# Nancy Howell

27 Species



## Nancy visited the reservation **twice!**

It has been ages since I had been to North Chagrin Reservation. In my early years of birding as a kid, that was one of the places that I participated in the spring bird walks. At that time there were no all-purpose trails nor the Nature Center that is there now. Sunset Pond and Squire's Castle were two places I remember.

I was able to visit the Oxbow Lagoon area along the Chagrin River two times in March, the 12th and the 16th. One visit happened to be the day after my first COVID vaccine and I felt kind of "blah", but the walk, and the birds sighted pepped me up, plus I saw a rare bird - Tom Fishburn. The target species for the month was the Red-winged Blackbird, a denizen of wetlands, marshes and wet, brushy areas. My first visit on Friday, March 12, I was able to find 22 species. The area I covered was the floodplain field, the lagoon area, a walk along the Chagrin River and crossing the road to loop around another pond. One of the first birds sighted was a pair of **Wood Ducks**. It was the female's call, a shrill "oo-week, oo-week" that alerted me that the birds were there. Always nice to see. A pair of **Canada Geese** were also on the pond and later others flew over following the Chagrin River. With the water and vegetation I was sure there would be a lot of **Red-winged Blackbirds** ... but not this day. I was able to hear a single bird in the distance and didn't even see it. The walk through the brushy field and by the wetlands to the river did produce **Mourning Doves**, a flyby **Killdeer**, a couple of woodpecker species, **Downy** and **Red-bellied**, **Blue Jay**, a flyby **American Crow**, **Black-capped Chickadees**, a small flock of **American Tree Sparrows**, **Song Sparrows** and **Northern Cardinal**. The brushy field is perfect for the latter two species.



*Photo: A Rare Bird – Tom Fishburn at Oxbow Lagoon by Nancy Howell*

# Nancy Howell (cont.)



The “weedy” field had several bird boxes for bluebirds, swallow and other open area cavity nesters. A male **Eastern Bluebird** was singing along the edge of the field, not far from a bird box. Perhaps he did attract a female to his territory and the luxury “condominium” on the lot. The trail heading to the Chagrin River took me along a boardwalk that skirted a beaver marsh with a wonderful complex of dams. What an engineer! That area held **Mallard**, **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Tufted Titmouse**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **American Robin** and **Common Grackle**. Alas, no Red-winged Blackbirds. Once along the river I looked for species that might haunt that habitat. A single **Red-tailed Hawk** soared over, nice! Coming back from the river and walking around the weedy field, apparently it warmed up enough for the **Turkey Vultures** who were probably roosting in the woods across the street. First one, then a second and finally six Turkey Vultures circled and soared over the valley and then out of sight. Their shadows crossed the field as they headed on their rounds to find a “carry-on” breakfast.

*Photo: Bird Box at Field's Edge at North Chagrin Reservation  
by Nancy Howell*

# Nancy Howell (cont.)



*Photos: Oxbow Lagoon (left) and Beaver Dam at Oxbow Lagoon (right) by Nancy Howell*

# Nancy Howell (cont.)



On Tuesday, March 16, I had made arrangements to meet one of the naturalists and former Museum educator, whom I had not seen since the COVID restrictions. We walked the same trail as I had done the previous visit. The second visit also tallied 22 species, with a few different species sighted. Yes, the target species, **Red-winged Blackbirds** were found with four birds sighted. Yay! With the walk right by the Chagrin River and wetlands **Canada Geese**, **Mallard** and a single **Wood Duck** were found during this visit. This time I added some different species, a couple of **Ring-billed Gulls**, a **Bald Eagle** and a **Belted Kingfisher** flew along the river ... that's more like it. Many of the species seen on the first visit were also present during the second. A single **Pileated Woodpecker**, not seen or heard during the first visit, called from the wooded area across the road. So no matter when a person visits, you never know what will be seen. It will be interesting to see lists and hear what other field trip participants had.

*Photo: Looking Up River – The Chagrin River – at North Chagrin Reservation by Nancy Howell*

# Nancy Howell (cont.)



*Photo: Nest That Withstood the Test of Time and Seasons at North Chagrin Reservation by Nancy Howell*

Below is the list of 27 species from the two visits, including the “rare bird” sighting:

## Bird List

1. Canada Goose
2. Wood Duck
3. Mallard
4. Mourning Dove
5. Ring-billed Gull
6. Killdeer
7. Bald Eagle
8. Turkey Vulture
9. Red-tailed Hawk
10. Belted Kingfisher
11. Red-bellied Woodpecker
12. Downy Woodpecker
13. Pileated Woodpecker
14. Blue Jay
15. American Crow
16. Black-capped Chickadee
17. Tufted Titmouse
18. White-breasted Nuthatch
19. Eastern Bluebird
20. American Robin
21. House Sparrow
22. House Finch
23. American Tree Sparrow
24. Song Sparrow
25. Red-winged Blackbird
26. Common Grackle
27. Northern Cardinal
28. Tom Fishburn – rare bird!

# Lisa Gerbec

22 Species



## Lisa birded on **March 27.**

Saturday morning, March 27, I started out on the North Chagrin Nature Center trails. My highlight there were the **Eastern Phoebes**. There was a pair hanging around and flying under the boardwalk. One perched on a post and sang. Hopefully, they will begin nest building soon. I found another phoebe sitting in a tree wagging its tail and singing near the Buttermilk Falls bridge.



*Photo: Eastern Phoebe at North Chagrin Nature Center by Lisa Gerbec*

# Lisa Gerbec (cont.)



*Photos: Male (left) and Female (right) Red-winged Blackbird at North Chagrin Nature Center by Lisa Gerbec*

# Lisa Gerbec (cont.)



*Photo: Eastern Bluebird on the Trail to Old River Farm Picnic Area, North Chagrin Reservation, by Lisa Gerbec*

Next, I visited the Oxbow area. I was excited to check it out because I had never been there before. I had **Wood Ducks** fly over a couple times. I loved the natural wood added to the edge of the boardwalk along the wetland area. I saw many **painted turtles** and evidence of **beavers** in the area. The **Eastern Bluebirds** were checking out the boxes on the trail to Old River Farm Picnic Area. I found a **Northern Mockingbird** in a shrubby area in the field. A kettle of six **Turkey Vultures** soared overhead and **Belted Kingfishers** were rattling up and down the river. I did find a neat plant that I had never seen before along the riverbank. The stem had pink flowers that were really attracting the pollinators. I added it to my iNaturalist account and it came up as **Butterbur**. I was disappointed to learn it was not a native plant. It is in the daisy family and native to Europe and Northern Asia. As I headed back towards my car, I passed the wetland again and saw a **Great Blue Heron** fishing for lunch.

# Lisa Gerbec (cont.)

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*Photos: Northern Mockingbird (left) and Great Blue Heron (right) at Oxbow Lagoon by Lisa Gerbec*

# Lisa Gerbec (cont.)



*Photo: Butterbur (Non-Native Species)  
at Oxbow Lagoon by Lisa Gerbec*

## Bird List

1. Canada Goose
2. Wood Duck
3. Mallard
4. Great Blue Heron
5. Turkey Vulture
6. Belted Kingfisher
7. Red-bellied Woodpecker
8. Downy Woodpecker
9. Eastern Phoebe
10. Blue Jay
11. Black-capped Chickadee
12. Tufted Titmouse
13. Northern Mockingbird
14. Eastern Bluebird
15. American Crow
16. American Robin
17. House Sparrow
18. American Goldfinch
19. Song Sparrow
20. Red-winged Blackbird
21. Common Grackle
22. Northern Cardinal

# Tom Fishburn



## Tom visited the reservation **twice!**

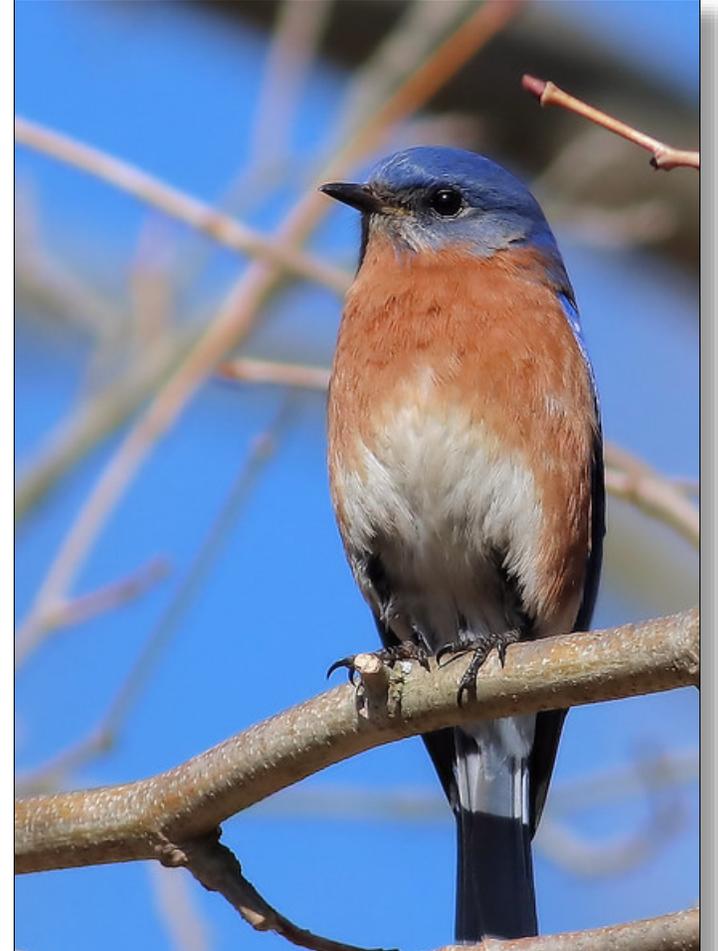
North Chagrin Reservation was such an enjoyable place to visit in March. I had not before taken the time to explore the Oxbow Lagoon area but thought it was attractive at times I drove by. I wanted some day to spend time there. Exploring the lagoon, I was surprised how much there was to it. Beside the lagoon area near the street, taking the trail to the east I found the boardwalk which added to the attractiveness of the area.

I made two trips on March 12th and 25th. Those days were different especially at the lagoon area. **Bluebirds** were at the Oxbow on the 12th but I did not see them on the 25th. I only saw the **Red-tailed Hawk** on the 12th. But on the 25th the **Wood Duck** activity was exciting, and I saw a **Pileated Woodpecker** fly over.



*Photos: Female (left) and Male (right) Eastern Bluebird at Oxbow Lagoon by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



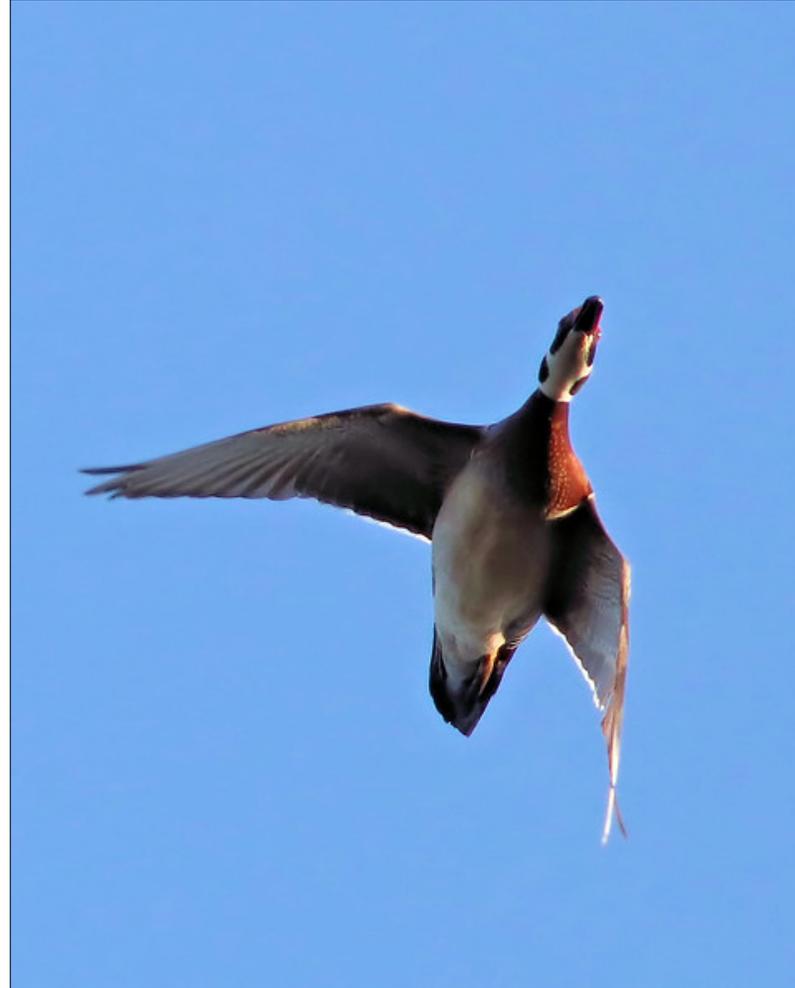
*Photos: Eastern Bluebirds at Oxbow Lagoon by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



*Photos: Red-tailed Hawks (different individuals) at Oxbow Lagoon by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



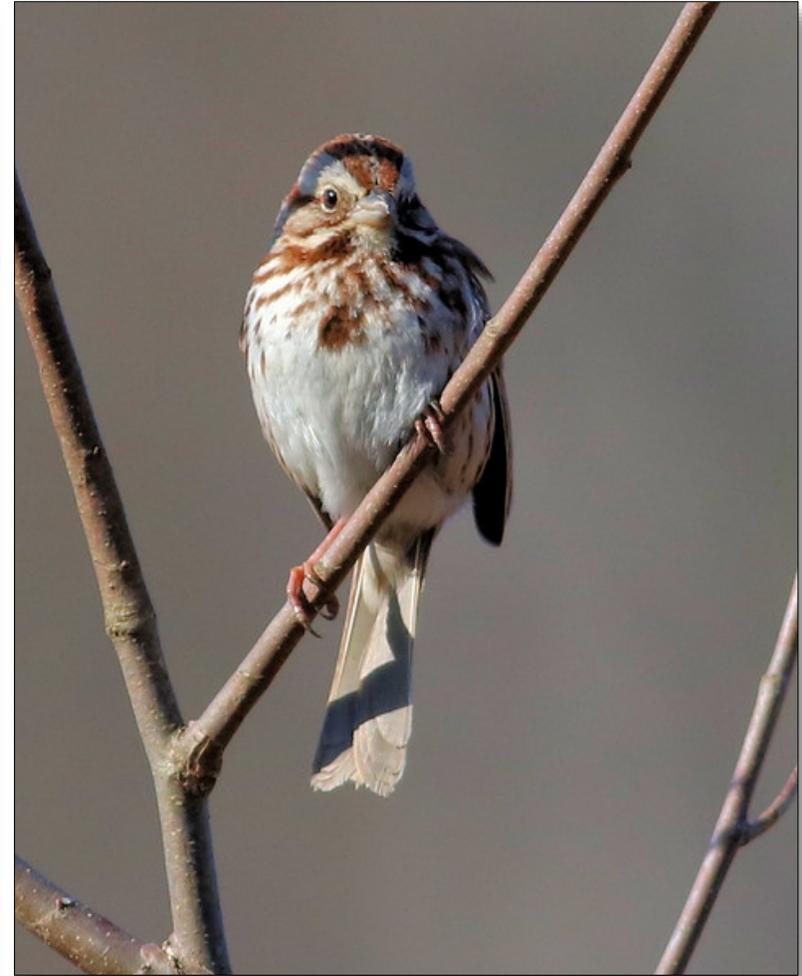
*Photos: Wood Duck Activity at Oxbow Lagoon by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



*Photos: Pileated Woodpecker Flying Toward Squires Castle from Oxbow Lagoon by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



Photos: Black-capped Chickadee (left), Downy Woodpecker (middle) and Song Sparrow (right) at Oxbow Lagoon by Tom Fishburn

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



When I left the lagoon on March 25th I stopped at the Old River Farm Picnic Area. From my car I heard this **Eastern Phoebe** singing. The Eastern Phoebe was a treat, not only being the first of this year to photograph, but I also think it may be the best image I've ever got.

*Photo: Eastern Phoebe at Old River Farm Picnic Area by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



Visiting the main area of Sunset Pond and Sanctuary Marsh I was surprised how little activity there was other than at the nature center's feeders. I had hope to see Tree Swallows on my second visit but did not. One surprise, however, was watching a flock of about 15 noisy **Rusty Blackbirds** for five minutes before those flew off.

The **Red-winged Blackbirds** were fun to photograph. And so were the birds (and bandits) visiting the feeders.

*Photo: Rusty Blackbird (left) and Northern Cardinal (right) at North Chagrin Nature Center by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



*Photos: Red-winged Blackbirds at North Chagrin Nature Center by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



*Photos: Black-capped Chickadees at North Chagrin Nature Center by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



*Photos: White-breasted Nuthatch (left) and American Goldfinch (right) at North Chagrin Nature Center by Tom Fishburn*

# Tom Fishburn (cont.)



*Photos: "The Bandits" - Chipmunk (left) and Red Squirrel (right) at North Chagrin Nature Center by Tom Fishburn*

# Thank you!



*Photo: Eastern Bluebird at Oxbow Lagoon by Tom Fishburn*

Lisa Gerbec  
Al Rand  
Shaun Missig  
Nancy Howell  
Tom Fishburn

&

**Cleveland Metroparks for  
North Chagrin Reservation!**

North Chagrin Nature Center is located at 401 Buttermilk Falls Parkway, Mayfield Village, OH 44143.

Oxbow Lagoon is located just south of Squire's Castle off Chagrin River Road. Squire's Castle is located at 2844 River Rd, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

Visit [wcaudubon.org](http://wcaudubon.org) for more virtual field trip opportunities!



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