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# BIRDING IN LORAIN COUNTY

## NORTH RIDGEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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President, Black River Audubon Society  
Birding Columnist, Chronicle Telegram





Black-necked stilt

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# AGENDA

- Getting Started
- Backyard Birding
- Bird Identification
- Birding Hot Spots
- Migration
- Ethics
- Conservation
- Bird Photography
- Black River Audubon

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# GETTING STARTED

- Why Birds?
- Equipment
- Birding vs Birdwatching



Tufted Titmouse

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# WHY BIRDS?

- About 10,000 species, different sizes, colors, histories
  - Ecological indicators
  - Growing and popular hobby (particularly during pandemic)
  - Inexpensive, healthy and educational
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# EQUIPMENT

- Binoculars
    - Cost ranges from \$200-\$5000+
  - Spotting scope
    - To see distant birds, especially over water
  - Camera
  - Field Guide
  - Checklist
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# BIRDING & BIRDWATCHING

- Bird watching
  - Passive
  - Backyard/ Common Trail
- Birding
  - Active
  - Competitive
  - Checklists– Life/Year/County
  - Travel
    - Across the country
    - Moment's notice for rarity
  - Photography– sell photos





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# BACKYARD BIRDING

- What to feed them
  - Birds want to attract/time of year
- Bird houses
  - Maintained
- Nesting materials
- Sparrows and Starlings





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# BACKYARD BIRDING

- Food attracts other animals
  - Squirrels
  - Opossums
  - Deer
  - Flying Squirrels
  - Raccoons
  - Mice
  - Chipmunks





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# BIRD IDENTIFICATION



**How a non-birder  
describes a bird  
they saw in their  
yard and want you  
to ID it:**



**What they actually saw:**



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# BIRD IDENTIFICATION

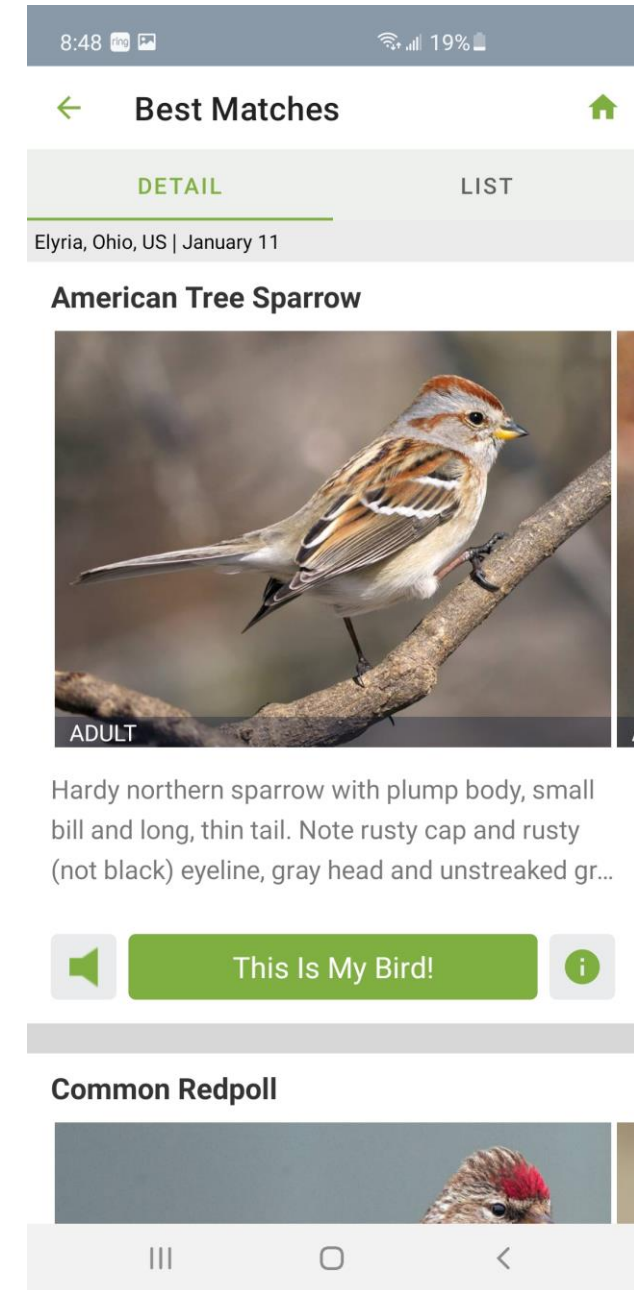
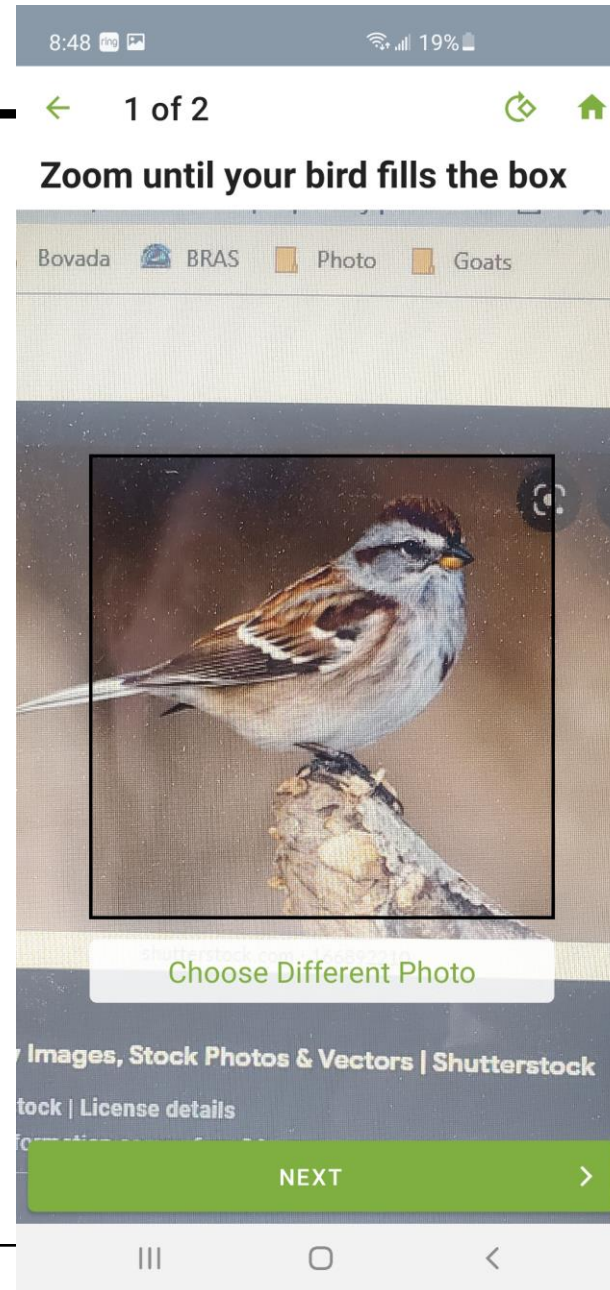
- Bird watching
  - Group/Type
    - Duck or Sparrow
  - Size/Shape
  - Behavior
    - Hop, climb a tree trunk
  - Color
  - Season
    - Migration
    - Chipping Sparrow (summer), Tree Sparrow (winter)
  - Field Marks
  - Voice
  - Location/Habitat





# BIRD IDENTIFICATION

- Resources
  - Books
    - Birds of Ohio
    - Birds of North America
    - Specialty– gulls, raptors
- Merlin
  - App-based
    - Take photo
    - Upload photo
    - Answer Questions





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# BIRDING HOT SPOTS

- Lorain County Metro Parks
  - City parks and lakeshore
  - Lake Erie Birding Trail
  - eBird
    - Identify what birds have been seen by location and when
  - Facebook
    - Birding Lorain County
    - Ohio Chase Birds
    - Northeast Ohio Backyard Birds
- 



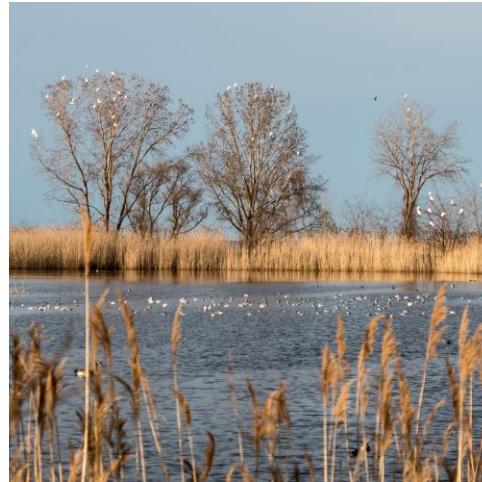
Lapland Longspur, Lorain Fishing Pier

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# BIRDING HOT SPOTS IN LORAIN COUNTY



**Sandy Ridge Reservation**



**Lorain Impound**



**Oberlin Reservoir**



**Bacon Woods**

# eBird

Project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon

Free and powerful application for phones and computers

Lots of information and data about birds— dates, location

Track your personal birding trips and checklists of others

Learning curve to use app.

Presentation on Black River

Audubon's You Tube Channel and other places

12:25 4G 72%

← **Black River Reservation--Bur Oak**  
Dec 19, 2020, 9:29 AM

Last update Dec 19, 2020 - 4:19 PM

- 1 Mourning Dove
- 1 Ring-billed Gull
- 1 Red-tailed Hawk
- 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker
- 4 Downy Woodpecker
- 1 Northern Flicker
- 4 Blue Jay
- 1 Black-capped Chickadee
- 2 Tufted Titmouse

# of Taxa Reported 13  
Protocol Traveling  
Number of Observers 1  
Duration (minutes) 54  
Distance(miles) 1.68

EMAIL EBIRD.ORG EDIT

12:25 4G 72%

← **Sandy Ridge Reservation** Edit  
Lorain, US

Google 8.5 mi

**Species observed**

255 All time 143 Likely 124 Last 30 days

Search species Sort

**Snow Goose** Last: today by kim pastrick

**Ross's Goose** Last: today by kim pastrick

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Not reported in past 30 days

**Cackling Goose** Last: 10 days ago by Jennifer Allison

Canada Goose

Submit Checklists Explore My eBird



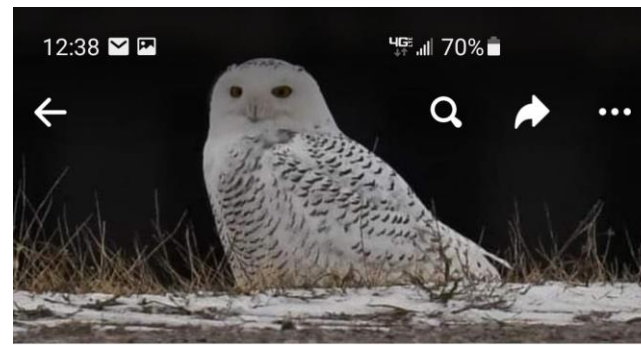
# Facebook

Birding groups from Lorain County to all over the world

Share sightings, directions, identification tips, general information

Messenger groups, members will stay in touch with the latest sightings

Make friends all over the area, even the state.



**Birding Lorain County** >  
Public group · 780 members



 [+ Invite](#)

[You](#) [Rooms](#) [Topics](#) [Photos](#) [Events](#)



[Live](#) [Photo](#) [Room](#)

New activity SORT

 **Mark Woike** 1h · 

A Snow Goose and a Ross's Goose were at Sandy Ridge Reservation this morning, 11/3/2021. Southwest corner of the marsh. The Snow Goose left around 8:20am. The Ross's Goose left around 8:30a. (Top pict - Ross's Goose In formation with Canadian Geese, Bottom Left - Snow Goose, Bottom Right - both of them hanging w... See More



**Ohio Backyard Birding** >  
Private group · 21K members



 [+ Invite](#)

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Featured ?

 **Kimberly Kaufman** shared a link. Sep 8 · 


**BREAKING NEWS REGARDING THE BAN ON BIRD FEEDING!**

From Ohio Division of Wildlife:  
... See More



 **Kimb** May 6

Why is this bir  
That's a quest  
often, so l tho



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# FIELD TRIPS

- More eyes to see birds, share knowledge
  - Black River Audubon has monthly field trips
  - Lorain County Metroparks has trips and events
  - Local festivals, such as Biggest Week in Birding
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# MIGRATION





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# MIGRATION

- For food and reproduction
- Summer & winter habitats
- Layover spots
- Chance to see birds who don't nest here



Chestnut-sided warbler

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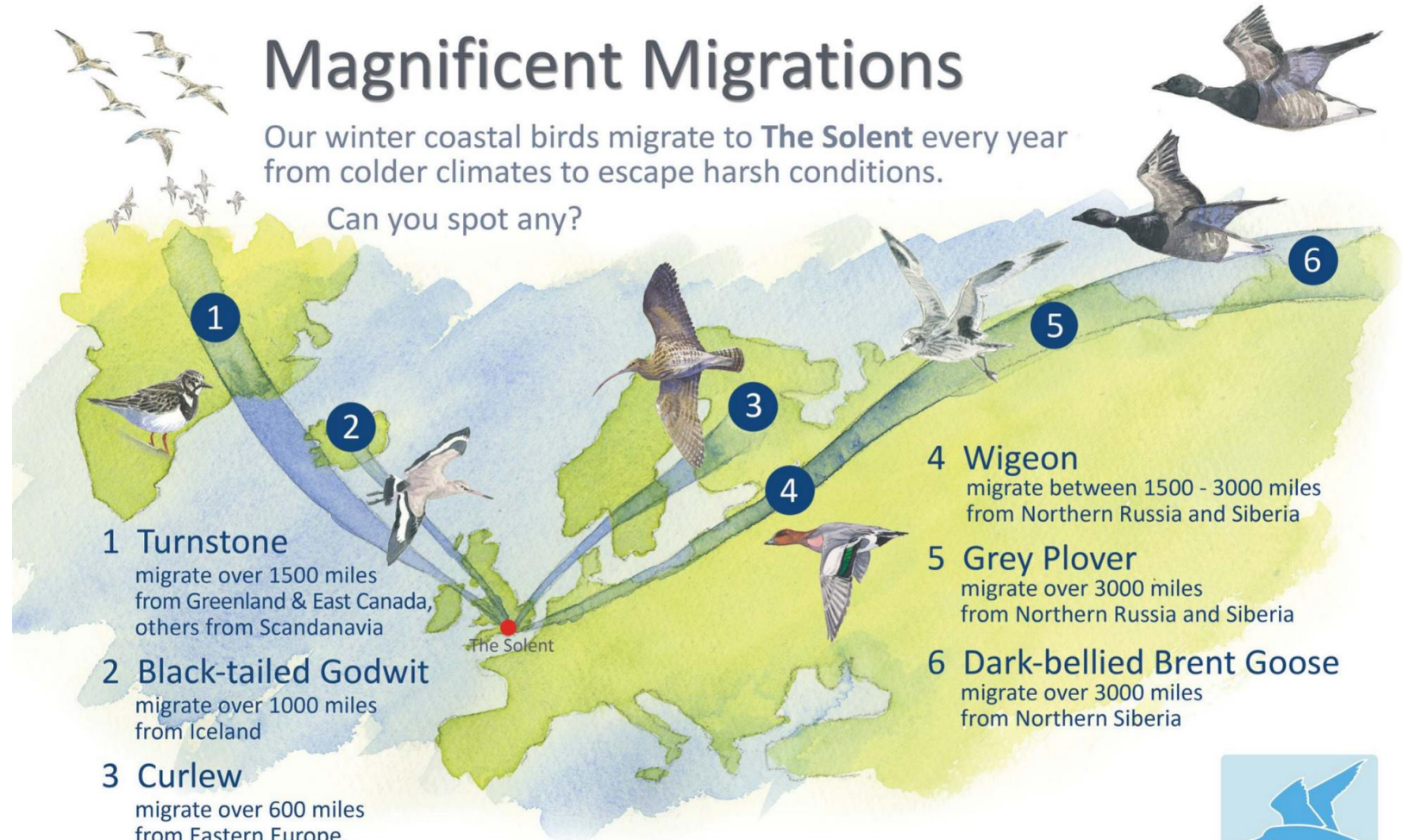
# MIGRATION

- Some birds migrate over 3,000 miles
- Bird species migrate at different times of the year– spring/fall
- Rely on stopping over places, such as Magee Marsh to refuel
- Chance to see birds that don't nest here

## Magnificent Migrations

Our winter coastal birds migrate to **The Solent** every year from colder climates to escape harsh conditions.

Can you spot any?



- 1 Turnstone**  
migrate over 1500 miles from Greenland & East Canada, others from Scandinavia
- 2 Black-tailed Godwit**  
migrate over 1000 miles from Iceland
- 3 Curlew**  
migrate over 600 miles from Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and Russia

- 4 Wigeon**  
migrate between 1500 - 3000 miles from Northern Russia and Siberia
- 5 Grey Plover**  
migrate over 3000 miles from Northern Russia and Siberia
- 6 Dark-bellied Brent Goose**  
migrate over 3000 miles from Northern Siberia

Artworks & design [www.powellwildlifeart.com](http://www.powellwildlifeart.com)



#BirdAware  
[www.birdaware.org](http://www.birdaware.org)

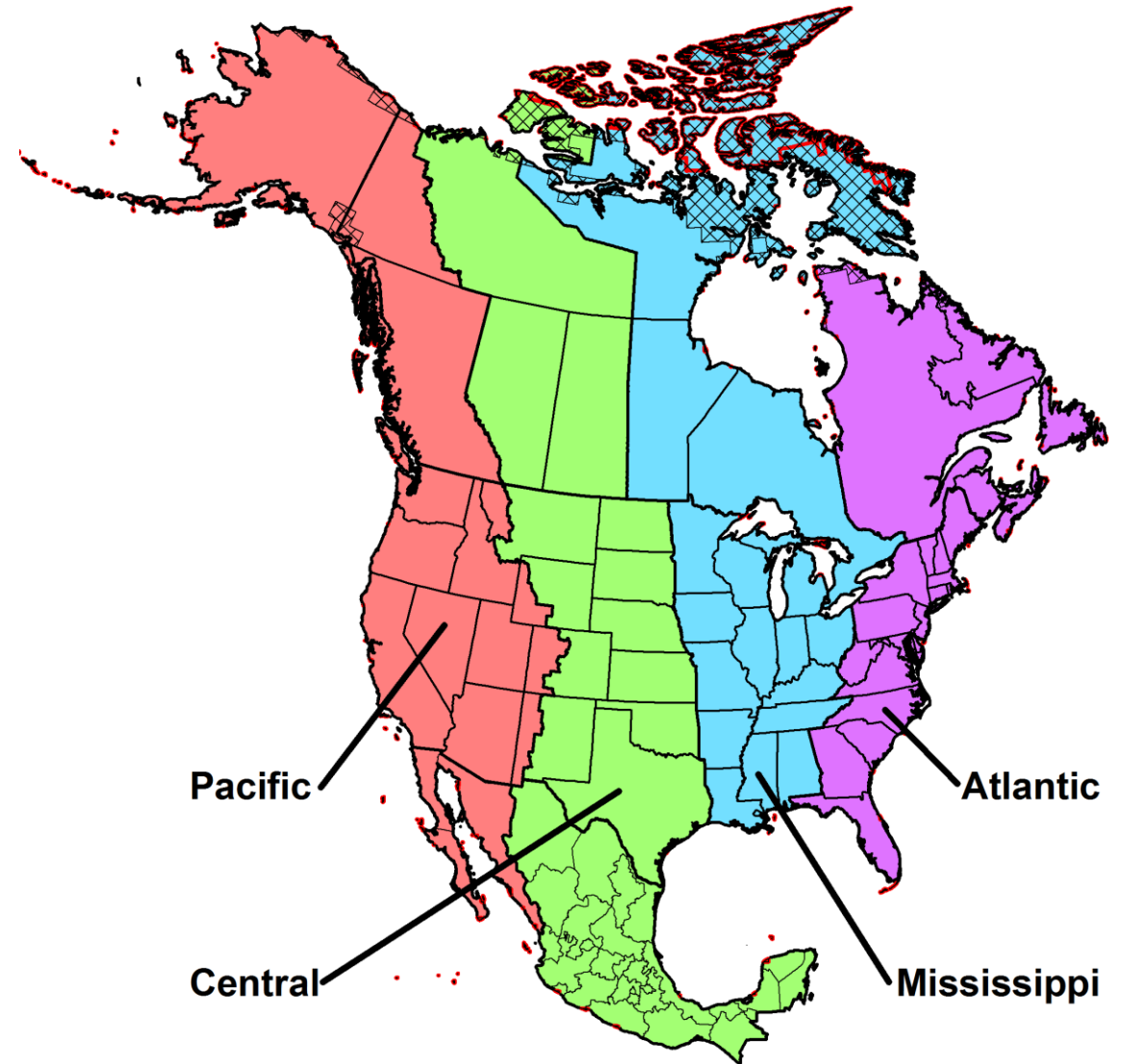




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# MIGRATION

- North American flyways
- Magee Marsh famous stopover location for warblers before crossing lake
- Vagrants get off course, sometimes due to weather, and a chance to see them



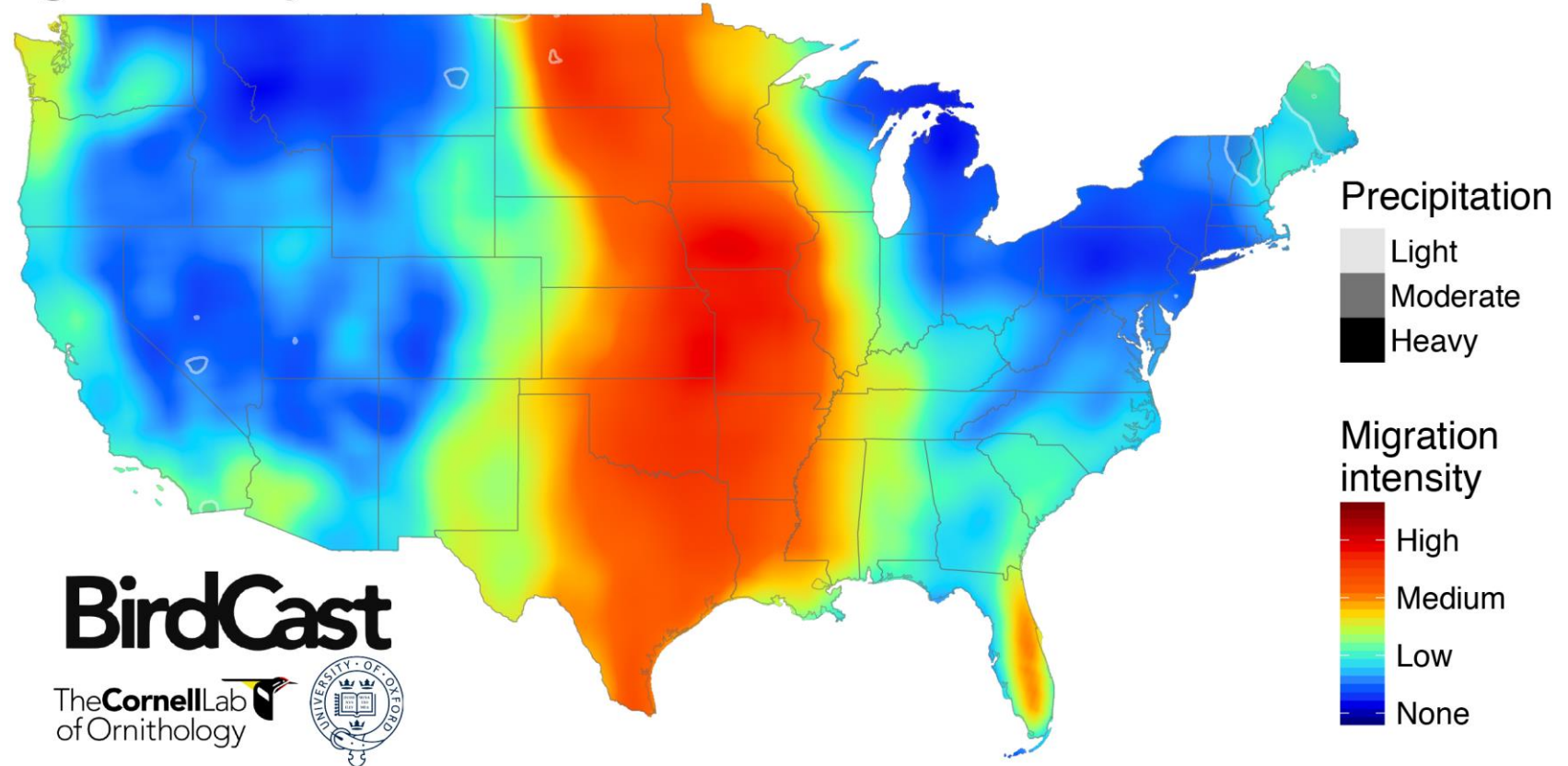


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# MIGRATION

- Bird Cast
- Predictive movement of birds
- Lets birders know best chance to see migratory birds

Night of May 7-8, 2017



**BirdCast**

The **Cornell** Lab  
of Ornithology



Van Doren and Horton 2018

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# MIGRATORY BIRDS AND VAGRANTS



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# ETHICS

- Respect and promote birds and their environment
  - Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Be particularly cautious around active nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display sites, and feeding sites.
- Respect and promote the birding community and its individual members
  - Respect the interests, rights, and skill levels of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience and be especially helpful to beginning birders
- Respect and promote the law and the rights of others
  - Never enter private property without the landowner's permission. Respect the interests of and interact positively with people living in the area where you are birding

American Birding Association

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# CONSERVATION

- Protecting birds, their habitats and other wildlife
  - Summer, winter and stopover spots
  - Food and water
- Four laws of Ecology
  - Everything is connected, "You can't do just one thing"
  - Everything must go somewhere
  - Nature knows best
  - There is no such thing as a free lunch



American kestrel

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# THREATS TO BIRDS

## Climate Change

Affects birds both directly and indirectly as distribution of birds closely associated with temperatures (USDA).

Audubon Report on Climate Change

## Cats

Domestic cats is the #1 direct, human caused to the birds in U.S. and Canada.

In the U.S. outdoor cats kill approx. 2.4 billion birds every year (ABC)

## Window Strikes

Another billion birds die every year from window strikes, with over 50% fatal.

City lights attract and disorient birds.

## Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution can build up in the bodies of seabirds.

Chemicals from plastic ended up in the birds' liver and fatty tissues

## Loss of Habitat

Damage and destruction of natural habitats for farms, suburbs and cities.

Bird populations will decline as human populations expand (ABC)

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# BIRD PROTECTIONS

- Migratory Bird Treat Act
  - Illegal to pursue, hunt, capture, kill any migratory bird
  - Illegal to disturb nests and eggs



## Warning!



Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is illegal to pursue, hunt, capture or kill, or attempt to capture or kill, any migratory bird or disturb its nest or eggs.

**Violators are subject to \$15,000 fine and up to six months in prison (16 U.S.C. 703)**





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# BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

- Documentation photos
    - Help with ID
  - Capture moment
    - Remember time and place saw bird
  - Bird Behaviors
  - Art
  - Challenging
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Short-eared owl

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# BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY





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# Blackbirds on Huron Pier



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# BLACK RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

- Lorain County non-profit, established in 1958
  - Over 550 members
  - Promote conservation through advocacy, education & programs
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# MISSION OF BLACK RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Education

- Monthly Speakers
- Monthly Field Trips
- Audubon Adventures
- Scholarships to Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine
- Outstanding Speaker

## Conservation

- Bluebirds
- Purple Martins
- Kestrels
- Black River Audubon Park
- Oberlin Prairie
- Christmas Bird Count
- MOTUS

## Advocacy

- Single-use plastic and plastic pollution
- Climate Change
- Protect Migratory Bird Treaty
- Cats
- Window Strikes
- Protect local habitats





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# SUMMARY

- Bird watching can be a fun, relaxing, healthy, inexpensive and educational hobby
- Northeast Ohio and Lorain County is a great place to see both nesting birds and migratory birds
- Birds are an important part of our ecosystem and conservation efforts are vital to their survival
- Many local places, organizations and resources available





**THANK YOU**

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