

Northern Harrier—

Circus cyaneus is a long winged and long tailed hawk able to hunt rodents and small mammals by using both sight and sound while flying low and slow. Unique among raptors, the genders look quite different, with the smaller male (*in flight on cover*) displaying a gray back and light underbelly. The female (*above*) is brown on back and striped brown and white underneath. It can be found year round in the pastures and fields of Columbiana County.



Pileated Woodpecker—

Dryocopus pileatus is the largest bird among North American woodpeckers, at about the same size of a crow. The bright red crown and black body is seen in both genders with slight variation. Mates stay together all year to defend territory. A characteristic rectangular bore is formed in its search for ants. The loud, drumming "kuk-kuk-kuk" can be heard throughout Ohio's mature forests during every season.



Eastern Bluebird—

Sialia sialis is a medium sized songbird with blue wings and tails accented by a reddish orange chest and a white body. The females tend to be duller in color for better camouflage while she builds and incubates the nest. Nest boxes have been very successful in backyards and golf courses. They typically have more than one successful brood each summer, before migrating south of the Mason-Dixon line.



Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation

Due to the variety of habitats through the glaciated and unglaciated parts of the Little Beaver Creek Watershed, the area is able to support a diverse macroinvertebrate population, 63 species of fish, 49 mammal species, 46 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 140 species of birds!

This brochure focuses on a select few of the watershed's many bird species, for a brief introduction to birding. These are birds commonly seen throughout the area, from the deep woods to the open country. For more information about bird species that breed in the Audubon designated Important Bird Area of Little Beaver Creek, see other LBCLF publications.

Don't forget to Celebrate **International Migratory Bird Day** on the second Saturday in May!

Facts provided by:

All About Birds. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. 2007
<<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/>>.

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COMMON BIRDS OF THE LITTLE BEAVER CREEK WATERSHED

Male Northern
Harrier



NASA

“preservation and protection
for future generations”

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Eastern Towhee—Almost constantly trilling, “drink-your-teeeee,” *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* is one of the largest sparrows. The male’s black head and the female’s dark brown head contrast with the white chest, tail feathers, and belly. It forages in ground litter with a two-footed backwards hop, to find seeds, fruits, and

invertebrates. More frequently heard than seen, they are common throughout the summer in Columbiana County in brushy and forested areas and occasionally seen at back yard feeders.

Wild Turkey— Unlike its domesticated counterpart, which were originally taken from Mexico, *Meleagris gallopavo* does not have a white tipped tail. The male provides no parental care and can be distinguished by his prominent beard. The female shares a characteristic fan shaped tail, bronze body, barred wings, and bumpy facial skin. This large game bird can be seen scratching the ground of hardwood forests year round in this area.



Great Blue Heron—*Ardea herodias* is the largest and most widespread heron in North America. This stately grey bird has long legs and a long “S”-shaped neck covered in shaggy feathers like its back. Throughout the year it is often seen flying over Columbiana County resembling a prehistoric bird overhead. These birds are colony nesters. One rookery near Elkton contains 20-30 individual nests in stream-side sycamore trees.



Green Heron—*Butorides virescens* is a small stocky spring migrant to the area. To forage it will bait the water and stand motionless waiting to strike (left) small fish. Its features are long including yellow legs, dark pointed bill, and outstretched neck. The head and wings are greenish black, complimenting its rufous neck and grey underside. This solitary bird prefers streams, ponds and marshes with wooded cover. Its call is a loud sharp “keeyowk!”



Belted Kingfisher—With a loud rattling cry, *Ceryle alcyon* plunges head first into the water to catch a fish which is then killed by repeated pounding on the bird’s perch. The female (right) is more colorful than the male with distinguishing red chest bands. The large head sports a shaggy crest, a thick bill, and white spot in front of the eyes. The nesting territory can be up to 1 km of the water’s edge. Kingfishers are found around almost any small stream in Columbiana County year round.



Red-Shouldered Hawk— The *Buteo lineatus*’s common name comes from rusty red on the upper part of its wing and the barred underbelly. Black and white striped flight feathers and tail accentuate its yellow cere and legs. Their loud “kee-aah” with a descending second note is usually given repeatedly and can be heard all seasons in the area. Like most hawks it descends on its food from above but can also hunt from the ground waiting for rodents to emerge from their burrows. Except during breeding season, it lives alone in heavily wooded areas.



Red-Tailed Hawk—*Buteo jamaicensis* is the most common and wide-spread hawk in North America. This sit-and-wait predator perches over wide open fields watching for its rodent prey. The broad rusty red tail and long broad wings on a stocky body are key identification features. Its raspy “kree-eee-ar” scream is often used in movies to represent birds of prey. It does not migrate and nests in late winter. This large raptor is commonly seen soaring over open fields throughout Columbiana County, using afternoon thermals to keep aloft.



Song Sparrow—*Melospiza melodia* is appropriately named because its loud varied songs grace the outdoors for the duration of the year. It can be seen along the roadside shrubs. Its streaked chest with center medallion and long rounded tail are good keys to recognizing this songster. It forages by scratching in leaf litter but will also visit backyard feeders.



Tufted Titmouse— *Baeolophus bicolor* has a blue-grey back, wings, tail, and crest with a pale underbelly and face. The sexes look similar and remain on their nesting territory as a pair year round. Its “peter, peter, peter, peter” call can be heard in forests, parks, and backyards. Their area has been expanding northward since the 1940’s.

