



Stark County Bird Quest Registration Packet

Synopsis

The Stark County Bird Quest is a 24-hour challenge with two goals in mind: 1.) get people into the outdoors using birds as a catalyst, and 2.) to accumulate data about birds in Stark County by submitting observations to eBird.org. This family-friendly event is free including introductory workshops, information on where to go birding, guided walks during the event, and the celebration at the end.

Teams can be as few as two people and as many as you want (rules will be provided for birding together – teams are not permitted to “divide and conquer”). Team names are encouraged and can be funny or serious, but creativity is rewarded!

Because teams can be comprised of beginners and life-long birders, we will offer awards (certificates suitable for framing) for things like “Most Species Reported”, “Most Warblers Reported”, “Most Habitats Visited”, “Most Parks/Preserves Visited”, “Most Creative Team Name”, and so on.

And a celebration at the end of the 24-hour event will be our way of bringing teams together for fellowship and a recap of the previous 24 hours. The 2023 Bird Quest gathering will take place at Fry Family Park (2533 Farber St. SE, Magnolia, OH 44643) beginning at 4pm on Saturday, September 16.

Bird Quest is organized and sponsored by the following organizations:

- Canton Audubon Society (<https://cantonaudubon.org/>)
- Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center (<https://www.mountunion.edu/nature-center>)
- Stark Parks (<https://starkparks.com/>)
- The Wilderness Center (<https://wildernesscenter.org/>)

Bird Quest Rules

- American Birding Association Code of Ethics (<https://www.aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/>) are to be followed by all participants.
- This is a family-friendly event, and all participants must act accordingly.
- Teams must register at least two people.
- Team members need not remain together for the 24-hour period. One or more registered team members can leave or join at any time during the event.
- All birds counted must be observed while teams are physically located within Stark County. For example, if you are standing in Stark County but observe a bird soaring in the sky over an adjacent county, you may still count that bird.
- Team members must remain at distances that permit direct contact at all times while birding. Teams may not split up to simultaneously cover different trails or different areas – you may not “divide and conquer”.
- All birds counted must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. Teams may use field guides or apps to aid in the identification of a species.
- Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. Feathers, nests, eggs, or other artifacts do not count as birds.
- All birds counted must be observed by more than 50% of team members present. For example, in a team of 2, both members would need to see the bird to count it for their list. In a team of 4, at least 3 team members would need to see the bird. Registered team members who have yet to join their team or those who have already left the team are not included, only those team members who are actively birding at the time of observation.
- Teams may go birding anywhere within Stark County as long as it is open to the public or, if private land, you have permission.
- Each team must submit a final checklist of birds observed using an official Bird Quest checklist in order to be eligible for any awards. Final check-in on the second day of the event concludes at 4:30pm.
- Drivers should be just that, driving and paying attention to road conditions, speed limits and other safety considerations.
- Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or substances, and weapons of any kind are strictly prohibited at this event.
- All participants must practice common sense health and safety measures throughout the event.
- Have FUN!

eBird.org

Please submit your bird observations during Bird Quest to eBird.org either online or via the eBird app. You can quickly summarize all your eBird lists to complete your official Bird Quest checklist on Saturday afternoon! An eBird account and the app are free! [Get started with eBird today!](#)

Workshops before Bird Quest

Thursday, August 10 at 8:30-10:00am – Guided Bird Walk

Location: Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center. Easy, casual walk in search of summer resident bird species. Great for bird enthusiasts of all ages. Meet in the Visitors Center. Bring binoculars or borrow ours (limited availability). Contact: (330) 823-7487 or naturecenter@mountunion.edu

Saturday, August 19 at 9:00-11:00am – Guided Bird Walk

Location: Sippo Lake Wildlife Conservation Center. Join Canton Audubon Society in a bird walk around the Wildlife Conservation Center. Beginners welcome. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. Contact: cantonaudubonsociety@gmail.com

Saturday, September 2 at 9:00 to 11:00am – Guided Bird Walk

Location: Fry Family Park. Join Canton Audubon Society in a bird walk around the Fry Family Park. Beginners welcome. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. Contact: cantonaudubonsociety@gmail.com

Guided Walks during Bird Quest

Friday, September 15 at 4:00-5:30pm – Guided Bird Walk

Location: Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center. Record your first species of birds for Bird Quest with a guided walk. Indoor observation available if the weather is inclement. Meet in the Visitors Center. Bring binoculars or borrow ours (limited availability). RSVP: (330) 823-7487 or naturecenter@mountunion.edu

Friday, September 15 at 7:00-8:30pm – Evening Bird Hike

Location: Quail Hollow Park. Take an evening hike in hopes of seeing/hearing late-day birds like owls. Dress appropriately for weather conditions and rugged trails. Bring a flashlight for when the sun goes down. Meet in the lower lot adjacent to the playground. Bring binoculars. RSVP: (330) 823-7487 or naturecenter@mountunion.edu

Saturday, September 16 at 9:00-10:00am – Bird Quest Guided Hike

Location: The Wilderness Center. Join TWC for an early birds guided hike for Bird Quest. Bring binoculars. RSVP: https://wildernesscenter.org/inspire_events/bird-quest-guided-hike/

Popular Parks and Places to Bird Watch in Stark County

You can bird watch anywhere in Stark County if it is open to the public or, if private land, you have permission. This is a list of popular, publicly accessible places for finding a great variety of birds all over Stark County during Bird Quest. [View an interactive Google Map.](#)

Walborn Reservoir – located NW of Alliance, OH in Marlboro and Lexington Townships with multiple trails and access locations.

- [Eagle Observation Area](#) - 13600 Marlboro Ave. NE, Alliance. Views of the reservoir and access to surrounding habitat.
- [Reeder Road Trailhead](#) - 12824 Reeder Ave. NE, Alliance. Views of the reservoir and access to the Shoreline Trail.
- [Walborn Marina](#) - 11324 Price St. NE, Alliance. Views of the reservoir and access to several trails.
- [German Church causeway](#) – German Church St NE between Petrie Rd and McCallum Ave NE. Views of the reservoir. Note that the south side of the road is Stark County, and the north side of the road is Portage County when making bird observations.

Berlin Lake – located North of Alliance, OH in Lexington Township with multiple access points located in Stark County. Designated as an Important Bird Area.

- [Greenbower Street Bridge](#) – located west of the intersection of Rockhill Ave NE and Greenbower St NE, Alliance. Views of the wetlands of Berlin Reservoir and Mahoning River from the road. Be certain to park off of the roadway if exploring the area on foot.
- [Price Street Bridge and Mudflats](#) – located on Price St NE, Alliance just west of RT-225/Union Ave NE. Views of the reservoir and mudflats from the gravel parking area just west of the bridge.
- [German Church Road Boat Ramp](#) - 15988 German Church Rd, Atwater. Views of the reservoir.

The Wilderness Center - 9877 Alabama Ave SW, Wilmot in Sugar Creek Township. Indoor bird watching and miles of trails to explore over 600 acres of forest, wetlands, and pond/lake habitats. Designated as an Important Bird Area. Wheelchair accessible bird viewing area and trail.

Sippo Lake Park – located in Perry Township with three access points to view the lake and explore surrounding habitat.

- [Perry Drive Entrance](#) - 5300 Tyner St., Canton. Views of the lake and adjacent habitat on the Sippo Marina Trail and Sippo Lake Trail.
- [12th St Entrance](#) - 5712 12th St. NW, Canton. Views of the lake and access to multiple trails. Wheelchair accessible trail.
- [Genoa Ave Entrance](#) - 800 Genoa Ave, Massillon. Multiple trails to explore wetland habitats.

Deer Creek Reservoir – located North of Alliance, OH in Lexington Township just west of Berlin Lake. Multiple access points and pull-off locations to view the reservoir along Price St NE.

Hoover Park Connector Trail – access and parking via the Hoover Community Recreation Complex located at 1325 E Maple St, North Canton. Limestone trail with wetland and woodland access.

Quail Hollow Park – 13480 Congress Lake Ave, Hartville. Over 700 acres of meadow, marsh, swamp, and woodland habitat. Wheelchair accessible trail.

Dueber Ave, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District – limited parking and access off of Dueber Ave between Downing St and Gracemont St. Wild setting with rugged trails.

Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve – access is through Jackson Township Park, 7984 Fulton Dr NW, Massillon. Forest and wetland habitats with access via 1.25 mile boardwalk trail.

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center – 16146 Daniel St NE, Minerva. Indoor bird watching area and over 3 miles of trails to explore forest, pond, and wetland habitats. Wheelchair accessible bird viewing area and trails.

Mahoning Valley Trail – located north of Alliance. Views of the Mahoning River and bottomland hardwood forest

- Greenbower St. to Deer Creek Reservoir – limited off-street parking on Greenbower St. Walk north through forest habitat toward Deer Creek Reservoir.

- East Gaskill St to Rockhill Ave NE – parking located at 182 E. Gaskill St. Alliance. Walk north adjacent to the river and through forest habitat.

Fry Family Park – 2533 Farber St SE, Magnolia. Over 300 acres of grassland, forest, pond, and wetland habitats. Excellent views of open sky for soaring raptors. The site of the Bird Quest celebration on September 16.

Iron Horse Trail, Cenfield St NE to Bayton St NE – small parking space available on the south side of Cenfield St just west of the intersect of Cenfield St NE and Hartzell Ave NE in Washington Township. Limestone trail passes through woodland and agricultural landscape.

Petros Lake Park – 3519 Perry Drive SW, Canton. Primarily open grassland with a 13-acre lake and small woodlot. Trails are natural surface and limestone.

Nickel Plate Trail, Louisville – parking available at 2923 Pinevale Ave NE, Louisville. Paved portion to the north connects to Metzger Park. Limestone section to the south dead ends at about 1 mile. Both sections are primarily a woodland corridor.

Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail – 26 miles of towpath trail along the Ohio & Erie Canal. River, remnant canal, and woodland habitats are most common. Many access points are available beyond the few listed below.

- John Glenn Grove – 8000 Warmington Road SW, Massillon.

- Lake Lucerne Trailhead – 7975 Erie Ave. NW, Canal Fulton.

- Lock 4 Park – 6575 Erie Ave. NW, Canal Fulton.

Tam O'Shanter Park – 5055 Hills & Dales Rd NW, Canton. Large former golf course with a variety of habitats. Many trails are a mix of asphalt and mowed grass and follow the old golf course cart paths.

Sippo Valley Trail – over 10 miles of asphalt or limestone trail on the former Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad. Woodland and agricultural habitats along with views of Sippo Creek.

- [Bison Ave Trailhead](#) – small parking area on Bison Ave NW in Tuscarawas Township.
- [Skyland Ave Trailhead](#) – parking area for 15 cars on Skyland Ave in Tuscarawas Township.
- [Alabama Ave Trailhead](#) – parking area for about a dozen cars on Alabama Ave in Tuscarawas Township.

Additional Bird Watching Resources

Birding Hotspots – Where to Go Birding in Stark County

- <https://birdinghotspots.org/region/US-OH-151>

Birding Hotspots – Alliance Area Birding Drive

- <https://birdinghotspots.org/drive/D1108>

Birding Hotspots – Canton Birding Drive

- <https://birdinghotspots.org/drive/D1124>

Birding Hotspots – Wheelchair Accessible Locations

- <https://birdinghotspots.org/region/US-OH-151/hotspots?features=Accessible>

Stark Parks Park Finder

- <https://starkparks.com/parkfinder/>

Canton Audubon Society

- <https://cantonaudubon.org/birding-stark/>