

NATURALLY SPEAKING

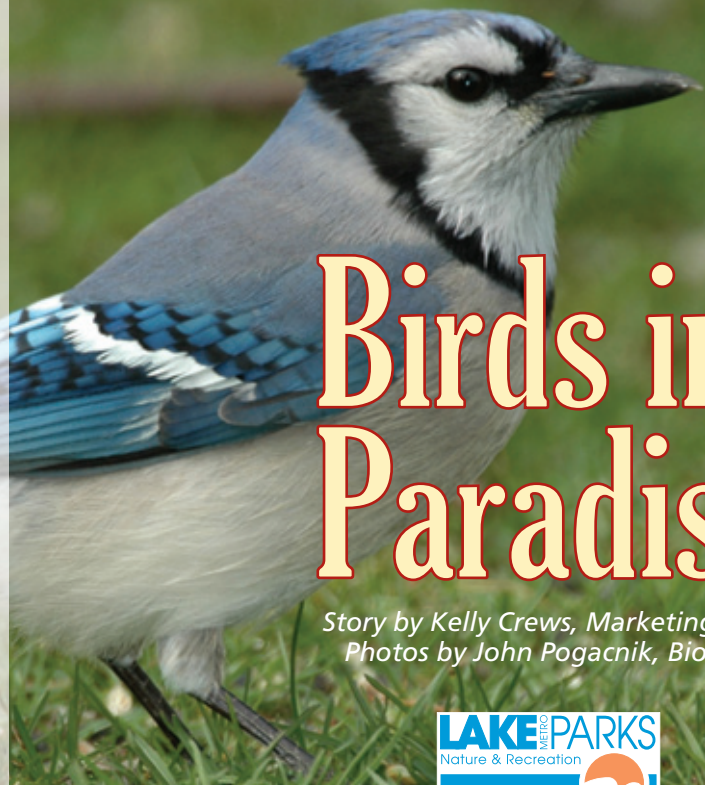
LAKE METROPARKS

Lake Metroparks has been working to protect the natural resources of Lake County for almost 50 years and the goal of retaining this environment is more than just to make our community more beautiful. By preserving these important river and stream corridors and lakefront areas, we allow an array of bird and other wildlife species to thrive in their natural habitats.

The forested riverbanks of Lake County are especially populated with interesting and sometimes rare birds like the bald eagle. Our nation's symbol, the bald eagle, has come a long way in the past 25 years. It has succeeded in its struggle to survive, and Ohio bald eagle numbers are now almost 20 times what they were in 1979. Without the protection and preservation of riparian areas, this would not have been possible. Of course, legal advances along with monitoring and restoration programs have also contributed to the increase of bald eagles.

The parks are teeming with life, which also makes them a great place for birding. To both the casual observer and the true bird enthusiast, watching and learning about the appearance, habits and songs of these birds can be a rewarding hobby. Lake Metroparks offers weekday morning bird walks in the parks and many day trips, where you will search for shorebirds and other migrants. Sometimes birding requires patience, but the many artificial nests located in the parks make it easier to spot a number of interesting birds in Lake County. These artificial nests, of all different sizes and shapes, are placed in the birds' natural nesting areas and have been very successful in attracting a variety of birds to the parks.

The Grand River is home to approximately 115 different bird species, including rare birds like the cerulean warbler and the dark-eyed junco. Every bird has a slightly different habitat preference, and with the great variety of terrain that Lake Metroparks continues to preserve, Lake County will be able to welcome even more wildlife in the future.



Birds in Paradise

*Story by Kelly Crews, Marketing Intern
Photos by John Pogacnik, Biologist*



Blue Jay



Baltimore Oriole



Great Egret



Green Heron