

SPECIAL THANKS



Ruby-Throated

Hummingbird at

Belmont County

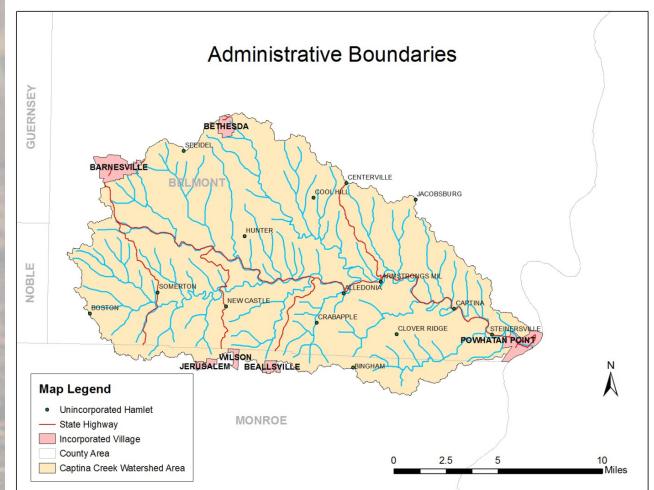
©Daniel Caron

Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District received funding from the Belmont County Tourism Council Grants Assistance Program to develop the Captina Creek Birding Trail. Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District would also like to thank these additional supporters: Captina Conservancy, Brooks Bird Club, Village of Powhatan Point, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Raven Rocks, Ohio University, and private landowners.

Bird species information was provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife.



Administrative Boundaries



IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

By participating in the Captina Creek Birding Trail, you assume the risk involved and relieve Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District and the property owner of any liability for theft, injury, or death. For your safety, avoid swift or high waters, stay out of inclement weather, and use caution near high-traffic roads. Be aware of wildlife, insects, and skin-irritating vegetation. Respect private property rights. Please follow the American Birding Association Code of Birding Ethics. Call Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District at 740-526-0027 for more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about the Captina Creek Birding Trail, please contact:



**BELMONT SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**
101 N. Market St.
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
740-526-0027
www.belmontswcd.org

For additional information, please contact:

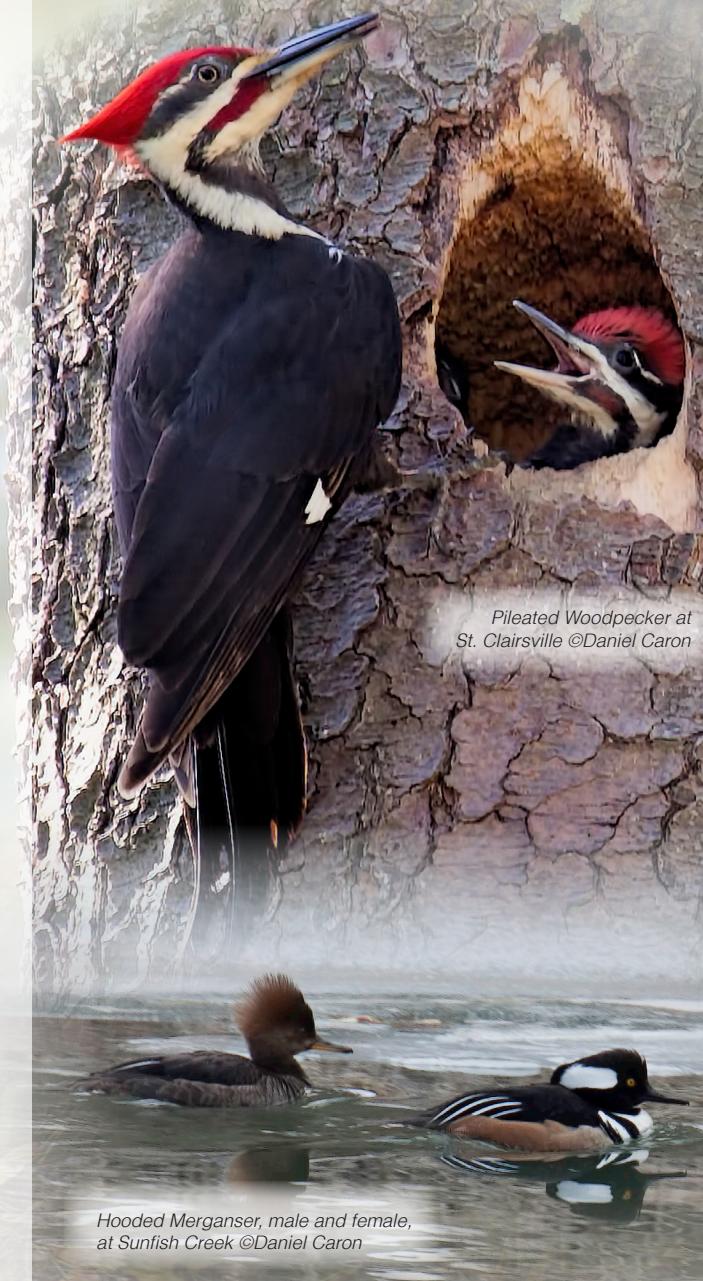


**CAPTINA
CONSERVANCY**
Post Office Box 318
Barnesville, OH 43713
www.captina.org



**BELMONT COUNTY
TOURISM COUNCIL**
67800 Mall Ring Rd #485
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
740-695-4359
belmontcountytourism.info

CAPTINA CREEK BIRDING TRAIL



Pileated Woodpecker at
St. Clairsville ©Daniel Caron

Hooded Merganser, male and female,
at Sunfish Creek ©Daniel Caron

The American Birding Association describes birding trails as driving routes linking birding locations. According to Birding magazine, birding trails serve as “gateways to conservation and adventure” by combining ecotourism and regional education. Birding has been identified as one of America’s fastest-growing outdoor recreational activities, and this enthusiasm is evident in Ohio. Residents of the Ohio Valley area do not have to travel far for prime bird-watching opportunities. Belmont County is home to a variety of special bird species, such as tropical migrating birds like the Northern Parula, spotted at Raven Rocks, the Hooded Merganser, seen overwintering at the Powhatan Point Marina, and the Belted Kingfisher, found all along the Captina corridor. The Captina Creek Birding Trail is a do-it-yourself driving tour with signage at five stops within the Captina Creek Watershed.



Northern Parula
at Raven Rocks
©Daniel Caron

ABOUT THE CAPTINA CREEK WATERSHED

Biological studies of Captina Creek and its tributaries, located in Belmont and Monroe counties, have revealed it as one of the best quality streams in Ohio. The mainstem of Captina Creek has scored the highest average fish diversity scores in the state, with fifty-six fish species sampled by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, average macroinvertebrate diversity scores place Captina Creek among the ten highest scoring

watersheds in the state. Adding to its unique diversity, Captina Creek is home to the state endangered Eastern Hellbender salamander and it is one of only a few watersheds in Ohio where successful reproduction in the past decade has been documented. The watershed also supports a healthy small mouth bass fishery and an abundance of other wildlife in its forested habitat. The Captina Creek Birding Trail is intended to promote the Creek as an exceptional natural resource in the state and help promote conservation awareness, recreation, and tourism in Belmont County.



STOPS ALONG THE CAPTINA CREEK BIRDING TRAIL

STOP #1 - MARINA AT POWHATAN POINT, OHIO

Directions: From Ohio State Route 7, turn onto Main Street in Powhatan Point and continue south on Main Street. Turn right to continue west onto Mellott Street. The Marina will be on your left.
Geographical coordinates: 39°51'41.14"N, -80°48'16.39"W



Scarlet Tanager
at McGee Marsh
©Daniel Caron

STOP #2 - CAPTINA CREEK MAINSTEM AT ALLEDONIA, OHIO

Directions: From Powhatan Point, continue west on Ohio State Route 148 for approximately 12 miles. Turn left to continue south onto Belmont County Road 86 in Alledonia. The stop is located along Belmont County Road 86 just south of Captina Creek and the railroad.
Geographical coordinates: 39°53'57.67"N, -80°58'8.96"W



Belted Kingfisher
©U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

STOP #3 - RAVEN ROCKS

Directions: From Alledonia, continue west on State Route 148 for approximately 5 miles. Turn left to continue south onto Belmont County Road 92 for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Wayne Township Road 804 (Crum Road) and continue on this road for approximately 2 miles. The stop is located on your left at the Raven Rocks trailhead parking area.
Geographical coordinates: 39°52'40.90"N, -81°2'18.21"W



Eastern Hellbender
on Captina Creek
©Daniel Caron

STOP #4 - SOUTH FORK OF CAPTINA CREEK AT RAINBOW'S END

Directions: From Raven Rocks, continue southwest on Wayne Township Road 804 (Crum Road) for approximately 1 mile. Turn left to continue north onto Wayne Township Road 41 (New Castle – Beallsville Road) for approximately 2.5 miles. Wayne Township Road 41 will turn into Ohio State Route 26 in New Castle. Continue north on Ohio State Route 26 for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn right onto School Land Road and continue east for a quarter mile. Park along this gravel road near the old barn. Continue on foot across the field to Captina Creek. The stop is located at the picnic area next to Captina Creek.
Geographical coordinates: 39°54'13.79"N, -81°4'12.86"W

STOP #5 - DYSART WOODS

Directions: From Rainbow's End, continue north on Ohio State Route 26 for approximately 10 miles. In Bethesda, turn right to go east on Ohio State Route 147. Continue on Ohio State Route 147 through the town of Belmont and continue east past Belmont for an additional 5 miles. Turn right to continue south onto Smith Township Road 234 (Cool Hill Road) and take an immediate right onto Smith Township Road 194 (Dysart Wood Road). Continue on Dysart Wood Road for approximately a half mile. The stop will be located at the Dysart Woods parking area on the left.
Geographical coordinates: 39°58'56.15"N, -80°59'56.70"W