

Did you know...

American Crows are very intelligent birds with the second largest brain to body ratio of all birds, only behind parrots. They have been observed using basic tools like sticks to gather food that is out of reach. They can be identified by their distinctive 'caw-caw' sound and are common throughout Ohio.



Did you know...

The Wood Duck is at home high in the trees where they nest in tree cavities. Their webbed feet are tipped with sharp claws for perching, while their broad wings and tail allow them to easily navigate as they fly through dense, swampy woods. Wood Ducks are migratory birds that return to the wetlands of Cuyahoga Valley National Park near the end of winter.



Did you know...

Over most of the year, whitetails feed five times every 24 hours. White-tailed Deer need to eat about 8 pounds of vegetation, per 100 pounds of body weight, per day. In large populations, they can alter the natural growth of forests. They are common throughout Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Did you know...

White-crowned Sparrows are energetic winter birds that can be found in Cuyahoga Valley National Park in the fall and winter. One was once tracked moving 300 miles in a single night during migration. Scientists interested in the movement and energy of these birds have discovered that they can walk on a treadmill at a pace of about one-third of a mile an hour without tiring out!



Did you know...

The Rusty Blackbird has had the sharpest decline in population, 88% population loss since 1960, of any American land bird. Scientists have found that habitat loss and degradation, along with mercury contamination, and evaporation of wetlands in the bird's boreal breeding range resulting from global warming are the drivers of this species decline. Once an abundant species, the Rusty Blackbird is now a rare sight in Northeast Ohio.



Did you know...

Tiger Swallowtails have a large wingspan of 4 to 5 inches and usually move by gliding through the air. With such large wings, they can lose one of their 'wing tails' after close encounters with predators without losing the ability to fly. Tiger Swallowtails can be found in Northeast Ohio in spring and summer in meadows along forest edges.



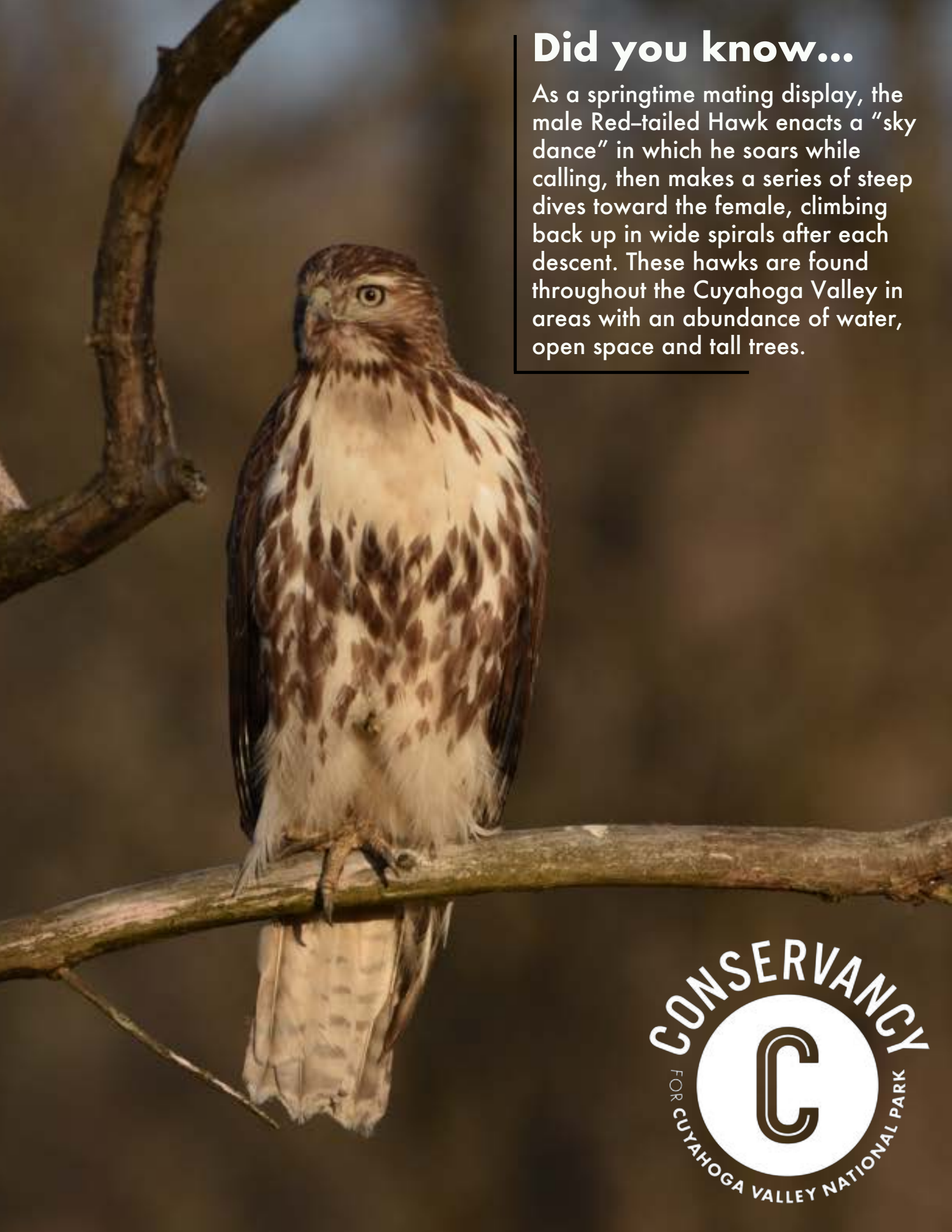
Did you know...

Unlike many other birds, female Red-shouldered Hawks will incubate their eggs from within before they are even laid. This is called asynchronous incubation and means young will not hatch at the same time, making parenting a little bit easier! The Red-shouldered Hawk can be found throughout Cuyahoga Valley National Park in areas with tall trees, open space and water.



Did you know...

As a springtime mating display, the male Red-tailed Hawk enacts a "sky dance" in which he soars while calling, then makes a series of steep dives toward the female, climbing back up in wide spirals after each descent. These hawks are found throughout the Cuyahoga Valley in areas with an abundance of water, open space and tall trees.



Did you know...

The Red Fox is a skilled hunter with a very acute sense of hearing. Using their cupped ears, they can hear a mouse squeak from 100 meters away! In winter, they hunt by listening for prey underneath the snow and pounce on curious noises they hear. Red Foxes are found throughout Cuyahoga Valley National Park.





Did You Know...

Opossums and Possums, are not the same animal. Opossums, like the one pictured, are native to North America, while Possums native to Australia are more closely related to Kangaroos than Opossums. English colonists living in Jamestown derived the word Opossums from its equivalent in Powhatan, a language spoken by the Virginia Algonquian tribe. The word means "white dog or beast" in Powhatan.



Did you know...

Muskrats are large rodents that prefer wet areas and cool burrows dug on the banks of marshes. They also build lodges out of cattails and other vegetation, like the Muskrat pictured here. Surprisingly, they can also hold their breath underwater for up to 20 minutes! Their structures can clog waterways and sometimes make them a nuisance species.





Did you know...

Great Blue Herons have specialized down feathers on their chest that continually grow and fray, eventually turning into a powder. The herons comb this “powder down” with a fringed claw on their middle toes, using the down like a washcloth to remove fish slime and other oils from their feathers as they preen. They can be found in marshy areas along the towpath year round.

Did you know...

Hoverflies look like bees, but they are 'mimics' that are actually more closely related to house flies. They get their names from the hover-like movement they display when flying. Hoverflies are harmless and help pollinate many of the plant species in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. They are abundant throughout the park from June to September.



Did you know...

Downy Woodpeckers communicate by calls and drumming loudly on pieces of wood and tree trunks. Their brain is protected from the shock of pecking by a pad of spongy elastic material between their bill and their skull. The Downy Woodpecker is a great help to our ecosystem because they feed on the destructive insects that bore into trees.



Did you know...

The House Sparrow is an invasive species closely associated with humans and their buildings. You won't find them in extensive woodlands, forests, or grasslands. In extreme environments such as deserts or the far north, House Sparrows survive only in the immediate vicinity of people.



Did you know...

Monarch Butterfly eggs are only laid on the underside of Milkweed plants. Milkweed has toxic chemicals that only Monarchs can eat; this toxin enters their body and protects them from predators that would otherwise eat them. You can spot Monarch Butterflies and caterpillars around Cuyahoga Valley National Park in the summer and fall.



Did you know...

A single chipmunk can gather and store up to 165 acorns in a day! When foraging, chipmunks will stuff food into their cheek pouches, which can be stretched to be three times larger than their heads. Eastern Chipmunks can be found throughout Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Did you know...

Adult Differential Grasshoppers display strong powers of flight in search of food using their hindlegs and wings. They will travel in calm air or even fly with the wind. Some have even been seen by airplane pilots as high as 1,400 feet above the ground! Differential Grasshoppers are common throughout the grasslands and creekside areas of Northeast Ohio.





Did You Know...

Gray Catbirds are relatives of mockingbirds and thrashers. They share that group's vocal abilities, copying the sounds of other species and stringing them together to make their own song. Gray Catbird songs are quite loud and can last up to 10 minutes. They can be found at forest edges and brushy thickets in the spring and summer.



Did you know...

Canada Geese are adaptable to many habitats. They need grass to eat, water to drink, and unobstructed views to scan for danger. Part of the reason they are so common and successful is that humans have created a lot of spaces that fill those needs in the form of lawns, parks, golf courses, agricultural fields, and airports.



Did You Know...

Dark-eyed Juncos are cold weather birds that migrate down from Canada for the colder winter months. When spring arrives, Dark-eyed Juncos will migrate back or nest in gorges of hemlock trees found in Northeast Ohio. Those that do stay in Ohio will begin mating in early spring.



Did you know...

Blue Jays are very intelligent birds that produce hawk-like sounds to check if there are hawks in the area, and to distract other birds that share the same food source. They will also sound off a loud alarm-like squawk when a threatening species comes too close. They are commonly found throughout Cuyahoga Valley National Park.





Did you know...


Barred Owls are sometimes called the laughing owl due to their many vocalizations. Its call sounds like, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?". They require a large area of tall trees and abundant prey. Barred Owls can be heard vocalizing at dusk in many areas of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Did you know...

Frogs use their eyes to help them swallow food. After a frog has caught prey in its mouth, you will see the eyeballs retract into the head, pushing the food down and allowing the frog to swallow.





Did you know...

Eastern garter snakes use their forked tongue to collect chemical compounds from the air. They interpret the compounds using a special organ on the roof of their mouth, similar to how humans use their noses. Garter snakes use their chemical sensing tongues as a tracking device to help find prey.





Did you know...

Eastern Bluebirds are year-round residents of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. They have exceptional eyesight and can see their insect prey moving from 60 feet away! In some areas, their population numbers have decreased due to habitat loss and competition for food sources with invasive bird species like the House Sparrow.

Did you know...

Red-bellied Woodpeckers are attracted to noises that resonate. The male will tap loudly on metal gutters, aluminum roofs, and even vehicles to attract a mate. They are forest dwellers but are also common in urban areas with large trees. They can be found in Cuyahoga Valley National Park year-round.



Did you know...

Tree Swallows are some of the first migratory arrivals to Ohio after winter, between mid March to early April. They build their nests in abandoned cavities of dead trees using pieces of vegetation and feathers. They can be found in open areas around Cuyahoga Valley National Park with lots of insects, their main food source.



Did you know...

Red-winged Blackbirds are a familiar sight atop cattails, roadside wetlands, and on telephone wires. Glossy-black males have scarlet-and-yellow shoulder patches while females are a streaky brown color. This species is one of the first migratory spring arrivals and an early indicator of the changing of seasons from winter to spring.



Did you know...

Flies have a tiny gyroscope-like pair of hindwings, shaped like dumbbells, that spin as they flap their wings and sense small deviations in body position. These hindwings are called halteres and they are essential in keeping flies balanced as they move through the air.





Did you know...

The Pileated Woodpecker is the largest woodpecker species in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. They can be found in large, mature forests, as a pair needs around 100 acres for their territory. Their nests average eight inches wide and two inches deep; bored inside of the tree trunk. Smaller trees may snap when Pileated Woodpeckers attempt to bore nests into them.



Did you know...

During courtship, Northern Cardinals males display affection by feeding the females seeds in a method known as "beak to beak." During this time, Northern cardinals are very territorial and will defend their zone from intruders. They are so territorial that during mating season, they may attack what they think is an intruder, but is actually their own reflection. Northern cardinals can be found everywhere from suburban neighborhoods to woodlands year-round throughout Ohio.





Did you know...

The White-lined Sphinx Moth can flap its wings 75 times per second! When they hover in mid-air, they closely resemble a hummingbird. These moths are also crepuscular, meaning they forage for food at dawn and dusk. They are a rare sight, but can be found sipping nectar in fields of flowers during the summer in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Did you know...

An American Toad will lay over 10,000 eggs at a time in ponds and vernal pools in late spring. They are abundant in the marshlands of the Cuyahoga Valley in late Summer when thousands of tiny toads complete metamorphosis and exit the water to live on land.



Did you know...

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is one of the smallest hummingbird species, only growing to 3.5 inches and weighing 3 grams. They hold the record for having the least number of feathers of any bird species; about 940 on average! The female Ruby-throated Hummingbird, like the one seen below, do not have a ruby colored throat, only males have this trait. This is called sexual dimorphism.



Did you know...

Least Flycatchers are tiny, insect eating birds weighing only 0.35oz. They are acrobatic masters that catch most of their insect prey mid-air. Pictured here is one waiting for prey to pass by it's hunting perch. They can be found in Cuyahoga Valley National Park in the summer.



Did you know...

Belted Kingfishers nest in horizontally angled burrows along earthy banks of streams. They feed almost entirely on aquatic prey, diving to catch fish and crayfish with their heavy, straight bill. They can be found along riverbanks throughout Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Did You Know...

Black-capped Chickadees are distinguished by their distinctive call of 'chick-a-dee-ee-ee'. The call of the chickadee can be incredibly complex, and can convey information about their flock, mating status, and nearby threats. Chickadees will add more 'dee' sounds to their call when a threat is nearby. They can be found year-round in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Did you know...

Jumping spiders are tiny arachnids that use their legs to pounce on their prey, typically other insects. Amazingly, jumping spiders don't have spring-like leg muscles, like grasshoppers, to help them leap. They propel themselves by suddenly increasing the blood flow to their legs, causing the legs to extend rapidly. Using this method, they can jump 50 times the length of their body!



Did you know...

The Great Horned Owl's eyes do not move, they instead turn their head to see in different directions. They have 14 vertebrae that allow them to turn their heads 270 degrees! It's more likely that you will hear the distinctive four to five syllable Who-ho-ho Who Who than to see a Great Horned Owl in the wild.