

## 2018-19 Audubon Chapter Annual Report

### **S63 - Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society**

<b>Person Reporting:</b>	<b>Maryanne Romito</b>
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<b>Report Status:</b>	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>Last Modified Date:</b>	<b>11/14/2019</b>

### **Chapter Overview**

Audubon chapter annual reports celebrate chapter accomplishments and goals and reveal opportunities for support and collaboration. Each Audubon chapter is required to submit an annual report to retain its certification status and qualify for baseline funding, as described in the Audubon Chapter Policy (<https://works.audubon.org/resources/audubon-chapter-policy-2014>). As you fill out this report you may save your answers and return back to the form to make additions and changes to the report at any time until you officially 'submit' the report.

1. Name of person submitting this report:	Mary Anne Romito
2. Email address of person submitting this report:	maryanneromito@gmail.com
3. This report covers the following time period:	
• January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019	
• July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019	
• Other (please indicate below)	X
If "Other" fiscal year selected above, please indicate the beginning and end date in MM/DD/YYYY format:	September 2018- August 2019
4. Mark only if your chapter's federal tax-exempt status was acquired or revoked in the last year:	
• Acquired	
• Revoked	
5. What primary public mailing address for your chapter would you like us to list on Audubon.org - Address Lines:	4310 Bush Ave
City:	Cleveland
State:	OH
Zip Code:	44109
6. What primary public contact email address for your chapter would you like us to list on Audubon.org?	info@wcaudubon.org
7. What primary public contact phone number for your chapter would you like us to list on Audubon.org?	216-741-2352
8. How many volunteers helped with at least one chapter activity over the year (including the board)?	492
9. In total, how many hours did chapter volunteers provide for all chapter activities? (Provide best estimate.)	1388
10. If your chapter has one or more paid staff members, please indicate how many:	
Number of full-time staff:	0
Number of part-time staff:	1
11. In what month does your chapter typically hold elections for board of directors and officer positions?	May

<p>12. Please provide a current list of your chapter board members and staff (if applicable). Current chapter leaders receive weekly chapter leader updates and important program updates from the National Audubon Society. Please include name, role in chapter, phone number, email address, and postal address. Please use the template provided on Audubon Works at <a href="https://works.audubon.org/groups/chapters/board-member-template-2018-chapter-annual-report-process">https://works.audubon.org/groups/chapters/board-member-template-2018-chapter-annual-report-process</a>. Alternately, new board members can fill in the form found at this web address: <a href="https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/bRDD8hyKOk2HVnDPGU52ow2">https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/bRDD8hyKOk2HVnDPGU52ow2</a>. Copy these web addresses into your browser.</p>	<p>S632377_Board &amp; Staff Member Contact Information S63 2018-2019.xlsx</p>
<p>If you do not have a file to upload, you may paste your chapter leader contact information here:</p>	
<p>13. To help Audubon raise awareness about your chapter's activities with people who may live nearby, please check off the public engagement opportunities your chapter offers:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guided local bird walks</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local wildlife sanctuary or nature center</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birding tours to other states or countries</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker series and presentations</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classes and workshops</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social events</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family-friendly recreation opportunities</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth education programs</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community science: bird counts, bird banding, etc.</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean-ups, restoration days, and other volunteer events</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help creating a bird-friendly home and garden</li> </ul>	X
<p>14. Does your chapter offer a chapter-only membership separate from National Audubon Society membership?</p>	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird-friendly plant sales or nurseries</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy opportunities</li> </ul>	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injured bird rescue</li> </ul>	X
<p>If "Yes" to question #14, please estimate the current number of separate (chapter-only) members:</p>	94
<p>15. Did your chapter receive, purchase, or begin leasing or managing land in the past year?</p>	No
<p>Do not click the "Submit Form" button below until all sections of the questionnaire are complete, as it will lock the form for further editing. Click either of the "Save" buttons below to continue or to save your work for editing later.</p>	
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<p><b>Equity, Diversity, &amp; Inclusion</b></p>	
<p>Please help chart Audubon's future by answering the following questions about your chapter's efforts to advance diversity and inclusion of groups of people that are currently under-represented at Audubon. The information will improve Audubon's understanding of these efforts and pinpoint resource needs.</p>	
<p>On a scale of one to five, please rate the following chapter activities. A rating of one means that the chapter would benefit from substantial training and guidance to achieve the stated objective or activity. A rating of five means that your chapter is fully and successfully achieving the stated objective.</p>	

16. On a scale of one to five, how would you rate your chapter's diversity recruitment and outreach for the board (and staff if applicable)?	3
Please provide details about your chapter's diversity recruitment and outreach activities for your board (and staff if applicable):	Reached out to Japanese communitiy Via a board, Reached out to public via Social Media, Personal relationship building, All activities are open to the open, membership is not required.
17. If your chapter has full or part time staff how would you rate the chapter's diversity and outreach and recruitment for the staff?	3
Please provide details about your chapter's diversity recruitment and outreach activities for staff	One part-time staff. Not currently recruiting.
18. How would you rate the chapter's diversity, outreach, and engagement with volunteers?	5
Please provide details about your chapter's diversity, outreach, and engagement activities with volunteers:	Our actiiviities are open to the public. We reach out via Social media, Relationship building
19. How would you rate the chapter's outreach and engagement with diverse communities and groups, and their involvement in the chapter's activities?	2
Please provide details about your chapter's outreach and engagement with diverse communities and groups, and their involvement in the chapter's activities.	Our actiiviities are open to the public. We reach out via Social media, Relationship building. Recruit online
20. Please tell us about the demographic breakdown of the board by race or ethnicity. Indicate the percentage of each race or ethnicity.	
Asian	10
Alaskan Native	0
Black or African American	0
Hispanic or Latina/Latino	0
Native American or American Indian	0
Two or More Races/Ethnicities	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
White	90
Unknown Race or Ethnicity	0
21. Please tell us about the demographic breakdown of your staff by race/ethnicity (indicate percentage).	
Asian	0
Alaskan Native	0
Black or African American	0
Hispanic or Latina/Latino	0
Native American or American Indian	0
Two or More Races/Ethnicities	1
Other Race or Ethnicity	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
White	1
Unknown Race or Ethnicity	0
20. Please tell us about the gender identities of your board. Indicate the percentage of each. Non-binary includes a spectrum of gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or exclusively feminine—identities that are outside the gender binary.	
Male	30
Female	70

Non-Binary	0
Do Not Know	0
21. Please tell us about the gender identities of your staff (indicate percentage). Non-binary includes a spectrum of gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or exclusively feminine—identities that are outside the gender binary.	
Male	0
Female	1
Non-Binary	0
Do Not Know	0
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<b>Conservation, Science, Advocacy</b>	
22. Bird-Friendly Communities conservation activities sponsored by your chapter:	
• Native plant gardens, sales, outreach, or certification programs	X
• Bird-friendly buildings programs (Lights Out, building design workshops, homeowner outreach, etc.)	
• Urban conservation initiatives (e.g., sustainability, urban green space, urban habitat corridors)	X
• Community conservation partnerships (e.g., work with parks departments, schoolyard habitat, faith congregations, etc.)	X
• Nestbox trails, swift towers, etc.	
Other Bird-Friendly Communities initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	Bird-friendly Coffee club. Conservation Project Lab. Native sales.
23. Climate-related conservation activities sponsored by your chapter:	
• Clean-energy advocacy or outreach	
• Energy-siting work	
• Programs, materials, or outreach about climate change	
• Climate-change adaptation work for habitats and communities	
• Climate science	
Other climate-related initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	
Did your chapter share research this year from our Birds and Climate Change Report or the newest Birds and Climate Change in National Parks research? Please share information about events where you shared this research and any notable outcomes from sharing this research.	Social Media. We've had over 10K likes for this sharing.
24. Coastal conservation activities sponsored by your chapter:	
• Beach-nesting bird stewardship	
• Coastal habitat conservation (clean-ups, restoration, advocacy, sanctuaries, etc.)	
• Seabird conservation advocacy	
• Coastal bird science	

Other coastal conservation initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	We are doing bird surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve
25. Important Bird Area activities sponsored by your chapter:	
• IBA identification	
• IBA monitoring, science, etc.	X
• IBA adoption	X
• Conservation, restoration, or advocacy work at one more more IBAs	X
• Outreach, events, or field trips at one or more IBAs	X
If applicable, please name the IBAs where your chapter is active:	Rocky River IBA, Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, Lorain County Metropark
If applicable, please name any state parks, National Wildlife Refuges, properties managed by the National Park Service or the US Fish and Wildlife Service, or other entities with which your chapter partners in IBA conservation or related work:	Cleveland Metroparks
Other Important Bird Area initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	Publication of bird survey reportings of birds walks and field trips to website, public media libraries, and titles shared on Social Media.
26. Water (freshwater) conservation activities sponsored by your chapter:	
• Water conservation education, outreach, or advocacy	
• Riparian or wetland habitat conservation or advocacy	
• Riparian or wetland bird science	
Other freshwater conservation initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	
27. Working lands programs sponsored by your chapter:	
• Working forests (e.g., timber management)	
• Working grasslands (e.g., grazing practices)	
• Sagebrush ecosystem	
• Other agricultural lands (e.g., rice)	
• Policy advocacy (e.g., Farm Bill)	
Other working lands conservation initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	
28. Does your chapter partner in or financially support any international conservation programs outside the United States? If so, please provide a short description of your work, your partners, and any grants you provide:	Relationship building with David Lindo from Great Britain and Marian Rishmawi from Lebanon
29. Did your chapter participate in any of the following community science initiatives this year?	
• Audubon Christmas Bird Count	X
• Great Backyard Bird Count	X
• Hummingbirds at Home	
• ClimateWatch	
• Bioblitz or biodiversity inventory	X
Other science initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	NEOSEF and NASA sustainability fair. Earth Day Cleveland Clinic fair. Funded LEAP native plant postcard.
30. Did your chapter participate in any of the following public policy advocacy activities this year?	
• Included articles on public policy in the chapter newsletter or website	X
• Maintained a phone tree or email network for policy issues	X

• Contributed letters to the editor on policy issues in local news outlets	X
• Participated in a postcard advocacy campaign	
• Participated in one or more public policy telephone conferences	
• Distributed an action alert to chapter members	
• Spoke by phone with elected officials on policy issues	X
• Met in person with elected officials on policy issues	X
• Invited elected officials to chapter functions (e.g., candidate forums, bird walks)	
• Sponsored a local resolution	
Other public policy advocacy or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	
31. Please indicate which of the policy areas you engaged in over the past year.	
• Migratory Bird Treaty Act	X
• Federal Climate Initiatives	X
• Sage Grouse	X
• Land and Water Conservation Fund	X
• Water (Great Lakes, Colorado River, Delaware River, Everglades)	X
• Endangered Species Act	X
• Federal Conservation Funding	X
• Coastal Barrier Resource Act	X
• Recovering America's Wildlife Act	X
• Alaska Issues	X
Please indicate additional issues you advocated on:	
• National Monuments	X
32. Please provide additional information about office holders who you met with and issues that you discussed.	
Do not click the "Submit Form" button below until all sections of the questionnaire are complete, as it will lock the form for further editing. Click either of the "Save" buttons below to continue or to save your work for editing later.	
<b>Outreach, Education, Fundraising</b>	
33. Which of the following outreach activities did your chapter sponsor or participate in this year?	
• Field trips	X
• Programs and membership meetings	X
• Earth Day event	X
• International Migratory Bird Day event	X
• Birding festival or similar	X
• Other special event (holidays, festivals, community days, etc.)	X
• Other (see below)	
• None	
Other outreach activities or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	Conservation Project Lab.
Approximately how many people did your chapter engage through these outreach activities?	2062

34. Which of the following educational activities did your chapter sponsor or participate in this year?	
• Audubon Adventures	
• Classroom programs in schools	
• Field trips or service learning programs for school groups	
• After-school programs	
• Camps, or scholarships for camps	
• Classes or activities for kids at a nature center or other location	
• Other (see below)	X
• None	
Other education activities or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	NEOSEF
Approximately how many children did your chapter reach through these educational activities?	75
If applicable, how many students from Title I schools were served through these educational activities?	
35. Approximately how often does your chapter mail a printed newsletter to members?	4-6 times per year
36. Approximately how often does your chapter send an electronic newsletter to members?	Monthly (or more often)
37. What is your chapter's current website address?	wcaudubon.org
This year, did your chapter download and utilize the membership rosters provided to you through the Chapter Reporting System?	Yes
38. If applicable, what is your chapter's Facebook page address?	facebook.com/wcaudubon
39. If applicable, what is your chapter's Twitter profile address?	twitter.com/wcaudubon
40. If your chapter is active on other social media channels (e.g., Instagram), please provide links to those profiles:	
41. This year, did you engage in any proactive outreach to local press/media to:	
• Meet with member(s) of the media in person to inform about chapter priorities/activities	
• Promote field trips, programs, events and other activities	X
• Pitch the media on writing a story about a particular accomplishment or initiative	X
42. Did your chapter engage in any of the following fundraising activities (check all that apply)?	
• Birdathon	
• Annual appeal	X
• Targeted cultivation of major donors	X
• Audubon Collaborative Funding	X
• Other grant applications	
• Birdseed sale or other sales and auctions	X
• Audubon Membership Incentive Program	
• Chapter membership program	X
• Earned income	X
Other fundraising activities or successes this year:	Coffee club sales, Birthday fundraisers on Facebook, Rockpile, Amazonsmile, silent auctions

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<b>Successes &amp; Goals</b>	
We'd love to hear one or two of your chapter's top success stories from this year. We may follow up with you for additional details and photos of your success story.	
43. Story #1 Title:	Bird-friendly Coffee club
Category:	
• Conservation	X
• Science	X
• Education and Outreach	X
• Policy and Advocacy	X
Other category:	
Description:	WCAS sells Smithsonian Certified Bird Friendly Coffee to the community through our website store, at our speaker series events, and at other public events such as our bird friendly native plant sales. The coffee sales raise funds for the chapter and support coffee farms that preserve habitat for birds in 12 countries, including neotropical migrants found in Ohio during the spring and summer. Sales are promoted in in our chapter newsletter and blog, and an announcement at the beginning of each speaker series meeting is educates attendees about the importance and benefits of buying bird friendly coffee. The coffee is served at these meetings for free. Sales have increased 10% from 2018 to 2019, and increased marketing efforts are planned for 2020.
Contact Name (if different from report submitter):	Lisa Del Rio
Contact Email:	lisadelrio93@gmail.com
If you have a good photo depicting this success, please upload here (if uploading doesn't work, please email to chapter_services@audubon.org with caption, photographer name and email address).	S632482_Bird Friendly Coffee Display 2019.jpg
Photograph caption:	Bird Friendly Coffee Display at the WCAS Bird Friendly Plant Sale at the Tremont Arts & Cultural Festival September 2019
Photographer name:	Betsey O'Hagan
Photographer email:	betseymerkel@gmail.com
44. Story #2 Title:	WCAS Conservation Project Lab
Category:	
• Conservation	X
• Science	X
• Education and Outreach	X
• Land Management	
Other category:	



Description:	Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society hosts monthly Conservation Project Labs in an effort to make the world a better place for birds and habitat. The public is invited to join Audubon members and friends to develop next-generation conservation projects for local application. Conservation Lab sessions are professionally facilitated working sessions designed to support group sharing of conservation issues the public cares about, such as plastics pollution or migratory bird and building fatalities, and to expedite citizens working together to bring these new conservation project ideas to life, often generating support dollars for other chapter activities. Monthly WCAS Conservation Project Labs successfully connect and engage like-minded social entrepreneurs who want to share ideas, and ultimately form focused project teams dedicated to launching solution based activities in response to local conservation needs.
Contact name (if different from report submitter):	Kurt Miske
Contact email:	kurtsacct@sbcglobal.net
If you have a good photo depicting this success, please upload here (if uploading doesn't work, please email to chapter_services@audubon.org with caption, photographer name and email address).	S632491_WCAS Conservation WCAS Project Lab March 2019 Live Broadcast Screenshot.jpg
Photo caption:	WCAS Conservation Project Lab March 2019 Live Broadcast Screenshot
Photographer name:	Betsey O'Hagan
Photographer email:	betseymerkel@gmail.com
45. Please list up to three of your chapter's top goals for the year ahead:	
1:	Urban Birding Cleveland Initiative
2:	Bird-friendly Native Plant Sales
3:	Chimney Swift Tower
Please upload a copy of your chapter's annual plan for the coming year (if uploading doesn't work, please email to chapter_services@audubon.org). For information on creating an annual plan, visit <a href="https://works.audubon.org/resources/guide-chapter-planning">https://works.audubon.org/resources/guide-chapter-planning</a>	S632498_ACTION PLAN FOR 2019-2020 final.doc
Do not click the "Submit Form" button below until all sections of the questionnaire are complete, as it will lock the form for further editing. Click either of the "Save" buttons below to continue or to save your work for editing later.	
<b>Financial Report</b>	
46. Fiscal Year Operating Revenue and Expense* as of the end of the year covered by this report (please use same year as your chapter's IRS Form 990 or e-postcard):	10770.00
Total Operating Revenue:	
Total Operating Expense:	15838.00
47. Total of all chapter funds at the end of the fiscal year (e.g., all funds held by the chapter including checking account, savings account, endowment account, certificates of deposit, stocks and other investment accounts; does not include the value of land or other buildings):	11908.00
48. Portion of funds balance that was restricted or reserved for a specific use (e.g., funds that are not freely available, their use being limited to a specific program or project; includes grants for specific activities, board or donor restricted funds, endowment accounts):	
49. Revenue received for chapter-only memberships, if applicable (do not include Audubon Baseline Funding or Membership Incentive Payments):	2707.00

50. Comments:	
*Definitions: Annual Operating Revenue includes all cash earned or raised in the last fiscal year to cover the costs of running the chapter. Annual Operating Expense includes all costs incurred in the last fiscal year to operate and maintain the chapter.	
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<b>Feedback</b>	
51. Has an Audubon state office or another Audubon office partnered with you on an initiative or provided support in some particularly meaningful way this year?	NO.
52. In 2019 National Audubon presented a series of capacity building webinars and peer learning opportunities. Please share if these trainings were valuable to your chapter and why or why not.	Participate in grant webinar. Wasn't beneficial.
53. How can Audubon be a more effective partner to your chapter in the future?	Have webinars at more convenient time and or on-demand. Bring back Ohio state office. Other webinars not at convenient time. Audubon produces a flyer promoting membership that says people who join get membership in their local chapter. This is misleading. People who join at the national level are placed on a roster for the zip code range of the chapter in which they live. However, they may not be entitled to the benefits of being a member of that chapter, depending on the chapter's membership policies. For example, they may have to join as chapter supporter in order to receive a printed newsletter and name tag, as they do in WCAS.
54. What would you like to tell us that we didn't ask in this report?	Ohio has not had a state office of the National Audubon Society since 2009. Prior to 2009, there was also in Ohio a council of chapters that provided mutual support to each other. That fell dormant about the same time that the state office closed. As a consequence, Audubon chapters in Ohio did not have coordinated support within their state as do chapters in states that have state offices and councils. In 2017, WCAS resurrected the old council, promoted its existence, and held workshops for the 14 existing chapters in locations throughout Ohio. Today, the council still exists and benefits all Ohio chapters that participate in it. Ohio has not had a state office of the National Audubon Society since 2009. Prior to 2009, there was also in Ohio a council of chapters that provided mutual support to each other. That fell dormant about the same time that the state office closed. As a consequence, Audubon chapters in Ohio did not have coordinated support within their state as do chapters in states that have state offices and councils. In 2017, WCAS resurrected the old council, promoted its existence, and held workshops for the 14 existing chapters in locations throughout Ohio. Today, the council still exists and benefits all Ohio chapters that participate in it.
55. Do you have any suggestions for the annual report process next year?	Make it short and less repetitive
Click the "Submit Form" button below when you have completed all six sections of this questionnaire to your satisfaction.	
Other:	
Are there activities or issues mentioned in this questionnaire about which you would like more information? If so, please describe:	