

2016-17 Audubon Chapter Annual Report

S63 - Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society

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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 (<http://bit.ly/1172jNr>).

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, 2017 - December 31, 2017	
• July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017	
• Other (please indicate below)	X
If "Other" fiscal year selected above, please indicate the beginning and end date in MM/DD/YYYY format:	September 1, 2016 - August 30.2017
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?	4310 Bush Ave. Cleveland, OH 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)?	224
9. In total, how many hours did chapter volunteers provide for all chapter activities? (Provide best estimate.)	2219
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:	0
Number of paid consultants:	1
11. In what month does your chapter typically hold elections for board of directors and officer positions?	May

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, email address, and postal address. You can upload a file containing this information or paste the information as text below:	S631875_WCAS - S63 Chapter leaders 2016-2017.pdf
If you do not have a file to upload, you may paste your chapter leader contact information here:	
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:	
• Guided local bird walks	X
• Local wildlife sanctuary or nature center	X
• Birding tours to other states or countries	
• Speaker series and presentations	X
• Classes and workshops	
• Social events	X
• Family-friendly recreation opportunities	X
• Youth education programs	
• Community science: bird counts, bird banding, etc.	X
• Clean-ups, restoration days, and other volunteer events	X
• Help creating a bird-friendly home and garden	
14. Does your chapter offer a chapter-only membership separate from National Audubon Society membership?	Yes
• Bird-friendly plant sales or nurseries	X
• Advocacy opportunities	X
• Injured bird rescue	X
If "Yes" to question #14, please estimate the current number of separate (chapter-only) members:	96
15. Did your chapter receive, purchase, or begin leasing or managing land in the past year?	No
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.	
Conservation, Science, Advocacy	
16. 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.)	X
• Urban conservation initiatives (e.g., sustainability, urban green space, urban habitat corridors)	
• 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, Bird surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, Cats Indoors Policy, Wind Turbines, Lights Out.
17. Climate-related conservation activities sponsored by your chapter:	

• Clean-energy advocacy or outreach	X
• Energy-siting work	X
• Programs, materials, or outreach about climate change	X
• Climate-change adaptation work for habitats and communities	
• Climate science	
Other climate-related initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	Educational climate related news and updates (stories)
18. 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:	Advocacy for proper siting of wind turbines in Lake Erie.
19. Important Bird Area activities sponsored by your chapter:	
• IBA identification	X
• 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, Doan Brook IBA
If applicable, please name any state parks, National Wildlife Refuges, or other entities with which your chapter partners in IBA conservation or related work:	Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Cuyahoga Port Authority, Nature at Shaker Lakes.
Other Important Bird Area initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	
20. Water (freshwater) conservation activities sponsored by your chapter:	
• Water conservation education, outreach, or advocacy	X
• Riparian or wetland habitat conservation or advocacy	X
• Riparian or wetland bird science	X
Other freshwater conservation initiatives or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	Advocated for the above topics on Lake Erie Legends speaker series on our website
21. 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:	
22. 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:	Our bird-friendly coffee sales support these initiatives
23. 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:	Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair, Lake Erie Alleghany Partnership (LEAP)
24. 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	
• Participated in a postcard advocacy campaign	
• Participated in one or more public policy telephone conferences	X
• Distributed an action alert to chapter members	X
• Spoke by phone with elected officials on policy issues	
• Met in person with elected officials on policy issues	
• Invited elected officials to chapter functions (e.g., candidate forums, bird walks)	
Other public policy advocacy or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	Petitions for Ohio Clean Energy, Position statements on Cats Indoors, Lights Out, Wind Turbine Sitings.
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Outreach, Education, Fundraising	
25. 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	
• International Migratory Bird Day event	X
• Birding festival or similar	
• Other special event (holidays, festivals, community days, etc.)	X
• Other (see below)	X
• None	
Other outreach activities or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	Backyard Biodiversity Bash, Cleveland International Film Festival, NASA Sustainability Fair, Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair. Audubon Spring Bird Walk Series.
Approximately how many people did your chapter engage through these outreach activities?	3332
26. 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)	
• None	X
Other education activities or accomplishments your chapter is proud of:	
Approximately how many children did your chapter reach through these educational activities?	
If applicable, how many students from Title I schools were served through these educational activities?	
27. Approximately how often does your chapter mail a printed newsletter to members?	4-6 times per year
28. Approximately how often does your chapter send an electronic newsletter to members?	Monthly (or more often)
29. What is your chapter's current website address?	www.wcaudubon.org
This year, did your chapter download and utilize the membership rosters provided to you through the Chapter Reporting System?	Yes
30. If applicable, what is your chapter's Facebook page address?	Facebook.com/wcaudubon
31. If applicable, what is your chapter's Twitter profile address?	@wcaudubon
32. If your chapter is active on other social media channels (e.g., Instagram), please provide links to those profiles:	flickr.com/wcaudubon; youtube.com/wcaudubon; soundcloud.com/wcaudubon; scribd.com/wcaudubon; eventbrite.com/wcaudubon; change.org/wcaudubon; volunteermatch.com/wcaudubon
• Meet with member(s) of the media in person to inform about chapter priorities/activities	X
33. This year, did you engage in any proactive outreach to local press/media to:	
• Promote field trips, programs, events and other activities	X
• Pitch the media on writing a story about a particular accomplishment or initiative	
34. 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	X
• Birdseed sale or other sales and auctions	X
• Audubon Membership Incentive Program	
• Chapter membership program	X
• Earned income	
Other fundraising activities or successes this year:	Bird-friendly Coffee sales, silent auction, grant from Key Bank
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Successes & Goals	
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.	

35. Story #1 Title:	Cleveland International Film Festival
Category:	
• Conservation	X
• Science	X
• Education and Outreach	X
• Policy and Advocacy	X
Other category:	
Description:	For the past five years, Western Cuyahoga Audubon has collaborated with the annual Cleveland International Film Festival as one of one hundred and forty event Northeast Ohio Community Partners. Benefits include: 1) the opportunity to select and advocate for a film aligned with organization mission 2) organization listing in the CIFF Film Festival Guidebook 3) the opportunity to present the WCAS mission to pre-movie audiences 4) distribute Chapter education materials to movie goers and 5) mention in CIFF social media marketing. In an effort to piggyback on CIFF local and international connectivity to grow and diversify audiences, WCAS commissioned and distributed a story series reporting on conservation efforts relevant to the Audubon mission and the selected movie topic. The story series was released during the twelve-day long festival. CIFF is rated as one of six standout film festivals in the country.
Contact Name (if different from report submitter):	
Contact Email:	
36. Story #2 Title:	Reconstituting the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters
Category:	
• Conservation	X
• Science	X
• Education and Outreach	X
• Land Management	
Other category:	Organizational development
Description:	Groundwork done to initiate the revitalization of Ohio Audubon chapter group.
Contact name (if different from report submitter):	Tom Romito
Contact email:	tomromito@ameritech.net
37. Please list up to three of your chapter's top goals for the year ahead:	
1:	Revitalization of Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters
2:	Education audiences about our initiatives
3:	Converting online audiences to chapter memberships
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Financial Report	
38. 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):	15362.00
Total Operating Revenue:	
Total Operating Expense:	15049.00

39. 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):	21404.00
40. 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):	7750.00
41. Revenue received for chapter-only memberships, if applicable (do not include Audubon Baseline Funding or Membership Incentive Payments):	3462.00
42. 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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Feedback	
43. 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?	NAS provided a collaborative mini grant to WCAS.
44. How can Audubon be a more effective partner to your chapter in the future?	Direct financial support. Need a Ohio representative support.
45. What would you like to tell us that we didn't ask in this report?	Greater support of Ohio chapters
46. Do you have any suggestions for the annual report process next year?	1.Many of your sections lead to duplication in answers. This could be solved by including exclusions in your questions. 2.Provide a space where we can identify partnerships we have with non-Audubon entities.
Click the "Submit Form" button below when you have completed all six sections of this questionnaire to your satisfaction.	