

April

Theropods of a Feather Flock Together: The Evolution of Birds

Presenter: Lee Hall, Vertebrate Paleontology Preparator, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: Backyard dinosaurs? Birds are the descendants of dinosaurs evolving more than 150 million years ago during the Jurassic Period. Since then, birds have diversified and thrived through to present day. Join Lee Hall, as he takes us through the fossil record of evolution and diversity of our favorite feathered friends in the program, "Theropods of a Feather Flock Together: The Evolution of Birds".

May

Lights Out! Bird and Building Collisions

Presenter: Owen Lockhart

Date: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: A problem that is all too real, whether it is in our own backyard or in the city, is the problem of birds, especially migrating songbirds, colliding with windows and buildings. Bird collisions are one of the top three human related causes of bird deaths and injuries. What can be done to solve this problem? Owen Lockhart shares research on Cleveland State University bird - building collisions and ways to reduce the number of birds striking windows.

June

Annual Picnic, Plant Exchange & Bird Walk

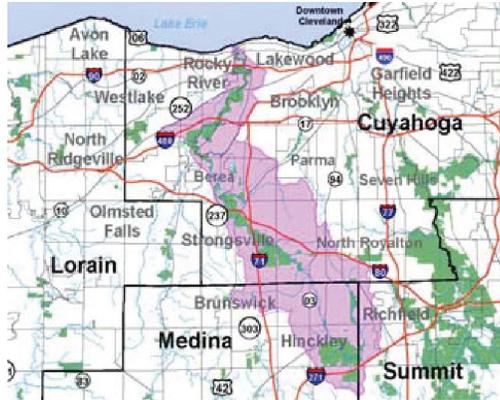
Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2017 at 6:00 pm (no rain will fall this evening!)

Location: Lagoon Picnic Area, Valley Parkway, between Cedar Point Road and Spafford Road, south of Rocky River Nature Center (NOT at Rocky River Nature Center – held outdoors at a picnic shelter.)

Leader: Nancy Howell, Educator and Naturalist

Target Species: Nesting and resident species

Description: Our annual Audubon picnic and plant exchange. Bring your dinner (grill will be available for cooking), your family or friends AND bring any plants, seeds, bulbs that need homes. They can be houseplants or outdoor plants. If you don't have any plants to bring that is OK, but adopt an "orphan" plant. We also have a bird walk after dinner.



This map shows the area of interest of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon. We operate in the west side of Cleveland, approximately from the Cuyahoga River west to Avon Lake and south to Hinckley, Ohio. **The area shaded in lavender is the Rocky River Important Bird Area (IBA).**

There are five other Audubon chapters in Northeast Ohio, including Blackbrook Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Akron Audubon Society, Canton Audubon Society, and Black River Audubon Society.



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Speaker Series
2017-2018



Western Cuyahoga Audubon Speaker Series 2017-2018

Programs are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070 [Map](#). Programs are free and open to the public. Guests are welcome and donations are appreciated. Programs subject to change.

September

Coyotes In Our Area: Now You See Them, Now You Don't

Presenter: Jonathan Cepek, Wildlife Ecologist for the Cleveland Metroparks
Date: Tuesday, Sept 5, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: Coyotes quietly live among us ... have you seen any? Jon Cepek, Wildlife Ecologist for the Cleveland Metroparks, will present updated research from the wildlife camera project in the Metroparks and through public reports in his program, "Coyotes in Our Area: Now You See Them, Now You Don't". Information will be presented about coyote ecology, coyote activity, and the human and pet encounters with this wily canid.

October

Unveiling the Lives of Seabirds Using Stable Isotopes

Presenter: Dr. Anne Wiley, University of Akron
Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: You are what you eat. In the case of seabirds, the stable isotopes in the food and water consumed are transferred to their tissues, providing a biochemical indicator of diet and foraging locations. Dr. Wiley's research looks at the role seabirds play in food webs, how these food webs are shifting, and the challenges of competition and reproduction with changing food webs. Join us for the program, "Unveiling the Lives of Seabirds Using Stable Isotopes."

November

Killer Whales of South Central Alaska

Presenter: Jennifer Allison
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Description: Southcentral Alaska has three ecotypes of killer whales; resident, transient and offshore. Jennifer Allison, deckhand on a tour boat, and volunteer with the North Gulf Oceanic Society (NGOS), identifies pods of killer whales that are sighted and her reports go to NGOs providing information about the identity and the activity of the whales. In her presentation "Killer Whales of South Central Alaska", Jennifer shares her photos and knowledge on whale identification, some of the difficulties killer whales have experienced since the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and more recent information gathered this past season. Photos of the other wildlife and landscapes will enhance our understanding of this area of Alaska.

December

Birding With Snow

Presenter: David Lewis, photographer
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2017
Special Event: Annual Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction begins at 6:30 p.m.
Speaker Presentation: 7:30 p.m.
Proceeds from the Silent Auction benefit Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society.

Description: Winter weather in northeast Ohio may be frightful at times, but our native birds are adapted to deal with it. While it may be hard to believe Golden-crowned Kinglets or Black-capped Chickadees, sprites of the bird world, survive our winters, they, and many other species, may be seen as the snow flies and temperatures dip into the teens. Photographer and birder, Dave Lewis will share with us photographs of local birds in the winter ... plus a few surprises ... in his presentation "Birding in Snow".

Annual Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction Details:

We begin our dinner at 6:30 PM, but the program is at 7:30 PM. For the silent auction, please bring gently-used or new nature-themed items. Bring a few bucks at the same time, and take home some treasures for yourself or for holiday gifts. For the potluck, bring a tasty appetizer, side dish or dessert to share. Western Cuyahoga Audubon provides beverages, bird-friendly, shade-grown coffee, ham and turkey.

January

Great Lakes Biomimicry: Learning From (not just about) Nature

Presenter: Carol Thaler, Director of Outreach and Administration, Great Lakes Biomimicry
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: "Thinking of nature as a teacher rather than a warehouse is a powerful act." This statement, by author Janine Benyus, has sparked people to learn more about biomimicry. Biomimicry, or innovation inspired by nature, has taken root here in Northeast Ohio. By emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies, humans can innovate to create sustainable solutions. Join us for the basics of biomimicry and how some species hold great insights to solve our problems.

February

Lake Erie Critical Issues

Presenter: Jill Bartolotta, Ohio Sea Grant College Program Extension Educator for Lake and Ashtabula Counties
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: Jill Bartolotta, Ohio Sea Grant College Program Extension Educator for Lake and Ashtabula Counties will share with us some of the critical issues facing Lake Erie, such as algal blooms, marine debris and invasive species. Her program, "Lake Erie Critical Issues" covers current research and management strategies as well as ways we can make a difference in our everyday lives.

March

Black Bears in Ohio: Past, Present and Future

Presenter: Mike Sustin, educator at West Geauga High School
Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: The black bear was once extirpated in Ohio, but confirmed sightings of black bears have increased in the eastern half of the state. High School science teacher, Mike Sustin, reveals what is known about the occurrence and habits of black bears and highlight the biology and ecology of these animals – from life in the den to foraging behaviors to the management challenges facing Ohio's population.