



August-October 2022

Membership Campaign	2
Programs & Speaker	2
Bird Walks, Field Trips, & Classes	3-4
Book Club	5
Volunteers Needed	5
Bird-Friendly Coffee	5
Climate Watch	6
Bluebird Nest Box Update	6
Cats Indoors Policy	7
In Memoriam	7
Welcome/Thanks	7

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SHERWIN-WILLIAMS BUILDING UPDATE

By Nancy Howell

Once again, Western Cuyahoga Audubon, thanks any of our members or guests who took the time to send letters to the City of Cleveland Planning Commission and/or the Sherwin-Williams Company regarding bird-safe construction of the new Sherwin-Williams headquarters building. Since the last newsletter, information has come out that is along the positive lines, much of this is due to the work of Patricia Kellner of the Kirtland Bird Club.

Here is what has transpired since the last Sherwin-Williams article. The City of Cleveland Planning Commission had their scheduled meeting on Friday, June 3 with Sherwin-Williams as the Agenda item. This came up quickly and was communicated right after the Memorial Day weekend ... such poor timing. The agenda for the Friday, June 3 meeting did not mention the windows or bird safety, however, prior to the meeting of the Downtown Design Review Committee on Thursday, June 2, it was noted that "at this meeting, City Planning Director, Joyce Huang, believes the bird concerns will be addressed verbally."

The Design Review Committee meeting was recorded. A portion of interest is when representatives from Sherwin-Williams spoke, segment, 54:22 Tim Muckley talking about the Avian Plan. Here is the link to that recording <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISnwAk7uvtU>

Patty Kellner and others were able to make short, 3 minute comments during the Friday, June 3 meeting. Segments you might want to watch from this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABPe2_wsaSo&list=PLJLxV4B9wSw8ve-uz7oMdS1YJyJKgRadH&index=10

36:57 - Start of comments - there were 2 besides Patty's and they both were interesting

38:07 - Patty's comments on behalf of KBC & Bird Coalition

45:02 - Submitted comments and what they were about - birders submitted the most comments

Patty Kellner sent this message which I think most of us will agree on, "Our (the birding community) latest efforts seem to have been fruitful! Of course, it's not over yet, the building is not up yet. Hopefully discussion will continue between Sherwin-Williams and Lights Out Cleveland (and the avian consultant who needs to be recruited to work *for* the birds as well as against nuisance birds.)" Kirtland Bird Club (thank you Patty Kellner and Paula Lozano) and WCAS have tried to provide as much accurate information as possible regarding all that has transpired.

Continued on page 2

SHERWIN WILLIAMS BUILDING UPDATE, CONT.

Continued from page 1

On a separate note, Matt Shumar, of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative, and Tim Jasinski, from the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center and head of the Lights Out Cleveland group, met with representatives of Rocket Mortgage Field House (RMFH). The newer portion of RMFH, which has highly reflective glass and is well-lit, has become a major contributor of migratory bird mortality in spring and fall. The representatives listened to Matt and Tim and we hope that they are considering a solution to reduce bird strikes. Again, another promising development due to the dedicated and persistent work of many. Thank you.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

By Nancy Howell

It's time to renew or become a NEW member of Western Cuyahoga Audubon! WCAS is your local conservation organization helping protect wildlife and the habitats they need, educating about the natural world, and sharing our passion about nature with others. Western Cuyahoga Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Chapter Memberships support public education, conservation, and advocacy programs with a local to global reach.

WCAS connects people with wild things on our shared planet by providing monthly speaker programs, an up-to-date website with local and national conservation information, advocacy, bird walks, fund-raising and friend-raising activities and more! WCAS programs are held virtually, via Zoom, so we can bring speakers from outside of our region while you, our members, enjoy the presentations from the comfort of your home.

The WCAS membership year is September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. Your new or renewed membership helps WCAS continue important work, but there are more ways to help WCAS:

- Consider including an additional donation to support conservation education and projects.
- Contact us to be part of one of the many WCAS volunteer opportunities. We all have something to offer and your voice brings diversity to the organization to move forward as a voice for conservation.

Become a member of WCAS today, online with PayPal: <https://www.wcaudubon.org/membership-2022-2023.html>

Or send a check or money order along with the membership form to: Nancy Howell, Treasurer, Western Cuyahoga Audubon, 19340 Fowles Rd., Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

Members receive:

- *The Feathered Flyer*, the quarterly newsletter **delivered electronically**, featuring stories, news and event announcements. For a mailed, print copy, the additional \$25 is noted on the chart below.
- A Western Cuyahoga Audubon window cling for home or car
- Access to online resources at our website with our events and programs as well as conservation resources and information
- Opportunities to Volunteer, be involved, and use your skills and knowledge.

Student/Limited Income Membership		\$20 for electronic newsletter	\$45 for mailed, print newsletter
Basic Membership	1 or 2 people (same address)	\$40 for electronic newsletter	\$65 for mailed, print newsletter
Family/Non-profit Membership	3 + people (same address)	\$55 for electronic newsletter	\$80 for mailed, print newsletter
Business Membership		\$150	

MEMBER PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Program: *"Birdability: Because Birding is for Everybody and Every Body!"*

Presenter: Freya McGregor, Birdability Coordinator and Occupational Therapist

Date & Time: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom. Members will receive the link, nonmembers should register at: <https://WCAS-birdability.eventbrite.com>

Description: Birding is an activity that can bring so much joy and empowerment to everybody, but not everybody is able to go birding easily. Birdability is a brand new non-profit, based in the US but with a global reach. Through education, outreach and advocacy, Birdability works to ensure the birding community and the outdoors are welcoming, inclusive, safe and accessible for everybody. We focus on people with mobility challenges, blindness or low vision, chronic illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental illness, and those who are neurodivergent, deaf or hard of hearing or who have other health concerns. In addition to current birders, we strive to introduce birding to people with disabilities and other health concerns who are not yet birders so they too can experience the joys of birding.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Program: *"Tracking Trumpeter Swans"*

Presenter: Dr. Laura Kerns, Ohio Division of Wildlife

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom. Members will receive the link, nonmembers should register at: <https://WCAS-Swans.eventbrite.com>

Description: Trumpeter Swans were reintroduced in Ohio in the mid-1990s, and although they are still state-listed, the population continues to increase and expand in the state. Ohio is currently participating in a multi-state project evaluating the movement ecology of the Interior Population of Trumpeter Swans and what factors determine migratory behaviors of the swans throughout the region. This talk will provide an update on the current status of Ohio's trumpeter swan population and a preliminary report of 20 swans tracked in Ohio compared to other Trumpeter Swans in the Great Lakes region.



*Trumpeter Swan at Lucia S Nash Preserve
by Shaun Missig*

SECOND SATURDAY BIRD WALKS



*Yellow Warbler with Fledgling
by Michelle Brosius*

New to birding? No problem! Grab a pair of binoculars and join us for our monthly bird walk at the Rocky River Nature Center trails. Our experienced leaders will help you get a look at the birds and are knowledgeable in answering your questions. You'll be amazed at how quickly you can learn!

Dates of walks: Saturdays, August 13, September 10, & October 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Leaders: Bill Deininger, Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper.

Where: Cleveland Metroparks, Rocky River Reservation.

Meet at the Rocky River Nature Center parking lot, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070

TREMONT TOWPATH TRAIL URBAN BIRD WALKS

Grab a pair of binoculars and join us as we discover a variety of birds and plants along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and Cuyahoga River in Tremont.

Dates of walks: Saturdays, July 23, August 27, September 24, and October 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Leaders: Nancy Howell and Al Rand

Where: Meet at the Cleveland Metroparks Towpath Parking Lot on Abbey Ave. just west of the former Sokolowski's University Inn. Google Maps link: <https://goo.gl/maps/rRJW6HNY3xpB6r5J8>. From there your bird walk leaders will guide you north through the Scranton Flats area of the Towpath.

EVENING BIRD WALKS

Perhaps you need a nice walk to wind down from the day, or maybe you're not an early riser for morning bird walks. If so, then these evening walks could be perfect! Evening is a great time to look and listen for birds as they begin to settle for the night ... or for some species, just beginning to be active. No matter what, these evening walks are a nice way to observe birds and the beauty of nature at a different time of the day. Walks take place on the **third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in August, and 6:00 p.m. in September and October.** Below is the list of walk locations.

Wednesday, August 17

Where: West Creek Reservation
Meeting place: Main parking lot of the Watershed Stewardship Center, 2277 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma 44134
<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/visit/parks/west-creek-reservation>
Leader: Nancy Howell

Wednesday, September 21

Where: Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve
Meeting place: Main parking area in front of the Ranger HQ.
<https://birding-in-ohio.com/cuyahoga-county/cleveland-lakefront-nature-preserve/>
Leaders: Nancy Howell and Mary Anne Romito

Wednesday, October 19

Where: Lagoon Picnic Area in the Rocky River Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks
Meeting place: Picnic shelter at Lagoon Picnic Area
<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/visit/parks/rocky-river-reservation/lagoon-picnic-area>
Leaders: Nancy Howell and Mary Anne Romito

FALL WARBLER CLASS

By Nancy Howell

Confusing Fall Warblers no, not really, that is until you see a bird that truly is confusing! It can be a bit tough to sort out some species and, of course, the young birds of the year can be more challenging. In this Zoom class and field to practice, you will gain more confidence in identification. We will review most warbler species that move through northern Ohio, sorting out species that don't change very much from spring to fall, and those that change quite a bit. Questions will be answered AND there will be a fun quiz at the end of the class!

Instructor: Nancy Howell

Field Leaders: Nancy Howell and Mary Anne Romito

Zoom Class: Thursday, September 1, 2022

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Zoom class is FREE, but please consider a donation to Western Cuyahoga Audubon.

Registration for Zoom Session:

<https://WCAS-FWClass2022.eventbrite.com>

No participant limit to the Zoom Class session

Field Experiences: Sundays, September 4, 11, 18, 25 and October 2, 9, 16 and 23

Field experience location: Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Meeting time: 8:00 a.m.

Field Experience Limit: 15 participants

Registration for Field Experiences (required):

<https://WCAS-FWExp2022.eventbrite.com>

Attend all or as many as you can make. Registration is required so that we can contact you if weather or other changes occur. Cost for the entire 8 weeks of field experiences: \$15.00 per participant ... what a deal!

Questions? Contact info@wcaudubon.org



American Redstart by Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS FOR 2022-23

Host Drina Nemes, Western Cuyahoga member, leads us in our third online season as we explore three contemporary nature books. There is no charge for the programs, so members, friends, and the public are encouraged to join us in lively discussions! Registration is encouraged so we can give you a warm welcome.

All books are available at [Amazon](#) and [Cuyahoga Public Library](#) as well as other book venues for purchase or borrowing.

"Hurricane Lizards and Plastic Squid – The Fraught and Fascinating Biology of Climate Change" by Thor Hanson.

Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 7–8 p.m.

Learn how and why lizards were found to survive more intense hurricanes, and how Humboldt's squid in the Gulf of California have adapted to warmer waters. Register: <https://WCAS-Book-Hanson.eventbrite.com>

"A Pocket Guide to PIGEON WATCHING, Getting to Know the World's Most Misunderstood Bird" written and illustrated by Rosemary Mosco.

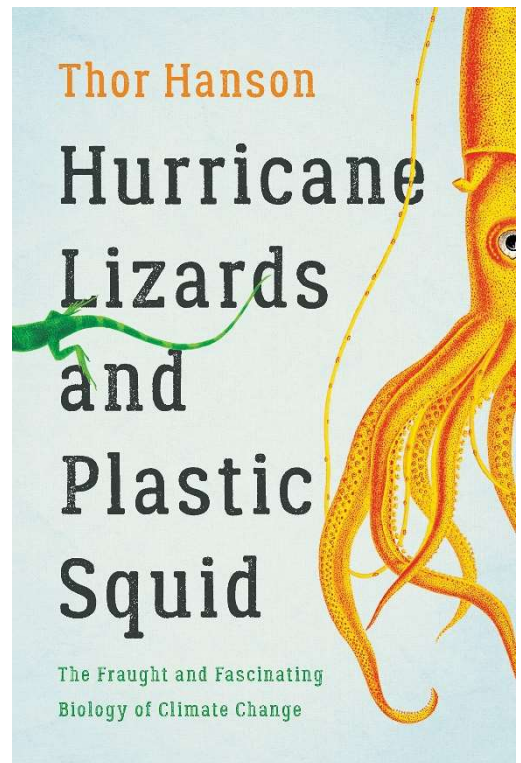
Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 7-8 p.m.

Register: <https://WCAS-Book-Mosco.eventbrite.com>

"A World on the Wing – The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds" by Scott Weidensaul.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 7 -8 p.m.

Register: <https://WCAS-Book-Weidensaul.eventbrite.com>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Cleveland Metroparks - Backyard Nature Bash

<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/calendar/2022/wsc/08-august/backyard-nature-bash>

West Creek Stewardship Center

Saturday, August 13 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help staff the WCAS display at the Backyard Nature Bash. We'll share information on making yards and neighborhoods more bird-friendly with families. We'll have a bird matching game, some giveaways and we'll promote membership to WCAS. In addition, a couple of bird walks will be held for visitors who would like to participate. Our display will be outdoors under a canopy and we'll need volunteers who can engage visitors. Volunteers are needed the entire time from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. and we would like some assistance with set-up as well as tear-down of the display. Please contact Nancy Howell at info@wcaudubon.org to sign up or if you have questions. Thank you!

BIRD-FRIENDLY COFFEE UPDATE

Did you know... [Agriculture drives 80% of tropical deforestation](#)? By buying Smithsonian certified bird-friendly coffee, you lower the impact of coffee-drinking on the habitat that animals need for food and cover. Since this coffee is 100% shade-grown and 100% organic, no pesticides poison the water and land, and no rainforests need to be cleared. YOU **CAN** MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

To save shipping costs, WCAS only places orders for coffee quarterly on these dates: **Oct 10, Jan 10, Apr 10, July 10.**

Please place your order in the WCAS store [Bird Friendly Coffee \(wcaudubon.org\)](#). You can order online or by downloading the form and mailing it with your check.

CLIMATE WATCH

Help Track the Effects of Climate Change—and Help the Birds You Love



Audubon's Survival by Degrees study shows that two-thirds (64%) (389 out of 604) of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change. The good news is that our science also shows that if we take action now we can help improve the changes for 76% of species at risk. Join Western Cuyahoga Audubon as we participate in Audubon's new community science program, Climate Watch.

If you can identify bluebirds, nuthatches, goldfinches, or towhees by sight and sound, or are eager to learn, put your bird knowledge to use and help us conduct surveys to see how these species are already responding to climate change in our area.

The next season of Climate Watch is January 15 - February 15, 2023. Be sure to check out the Climate Watch website (<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch>) to learn more about participating in this exciting new program including guidance on conducting a safe and socially distant survey. Contact Mary Anne Romito at maryanneromito@wcaudubon.org for more information on how to participate with WCAS or join us at our Zoom Climate Watch session. Details to be announced in the next few months to learn how to join our coordinated efforts.

BLUEBIRD NEST BOX UPDATE

By Kurt Miske

As you can imagine, the 2022 mating season is well underway. Here is the status of our 5 nest boxes at Lewis Road Riding ring as of July 7:

- For some reason Box #1 has proved attractive to unwanted House Sparrows this year. House Sparrows are known to set up 'decoy' nest sites and we think this box is being so utilized. This is surprising, due to the boxes' excellent location. There are a few strands of grass in the box at this time.
- Box #2 was used by a pair of tree swallows, who successfully raised 5 babies. The young ones have fledged and the box is cleaned and open.
- Box #3 is being used by a pair of bluebirds and currently contains 3 eggs. We calculate the 'last egg' date to be 6/28. This makes the prospective hatch date to be 7/10. In order to prevent 'pre-mature' fledging, monitors will not open the box after 7/21. We expect the chicks to fledge somewhere between 7/27 and 7/30.
- Box #4 was used by another pair of tree swallows, who successfully raised 5 babies. The young ones have fledged and the box is cleaned and open.
- Box #5 has proven to be another problem box as it also has been controlled by House Sparrows this year. We have contained them, and no young ones have been allowed to hatch.



Tree Swallow approaching nest box by Lisa Gerbec



Eastern Bluebird on a "sparrow-spooker" by Lisa Gerbec

There is still time for more nests. We are continuing to monitor and will have year-end results around Labor Day.

CATS INDOORS POLICY

WCAS, following the National Audubon Society's guidelines, is an organization dedicated to the conservation of, protection of, advocate for and education about birds and other wildlife. Birds, around the world and in our own neighborhoods, are being affected by a number of environmental issues, some of which may be handled at a local or state level. A prominent concern is the issue of free roaming domestic cats (feral and pet animals). A great deal of research has been done and continues to be done on cat and bird interactions with birds and other wildlife not faring well.

WCAS supports the protection of birds and bird habitats. We also understand the passion for companion pets and those who care for abandoned pets. The extent of research of cats on birdlife leads us to take the position that cats be kept indoors, or if outdoors, are haltered and leashed with a human companion. We encourage compassion toward all animals and applaud those who work to spay, neuter, vaccinate and find homes for stray and feral cats. We support the cat-caring community as well as those who protect birds and bird/wildlife habitats.



Zoey birding safely from her stroller

IN MEMORIAM: DONALD ALTEMUS

Many of our WCAS members may recall one of the Cleveland Metroparks naturalists, Don Altemus. Don passed away on June 25, he had turned 94 in early June. Some of our members may have attended Terra Alta Mountain Camp in West Virginia during the time that Don and his wife, Billie, were directors.

As a Metroparks naturalist, Don worked at the Brecksville Reservation, at the Cleveland Zoo/Brookside Reservation when the zoo had naturalist programs, and at the Rocky River Reservation. Many of us learned our bird identification from Don. For many years, Don Altemus was the Christmas Bird Count compiler for the area covered by Western Cuyahoga Audubon. In addition, Don led the Spring Bird Walk Series at Lake Isaac for a long time. Don was also an artist, with birds being a favorite subject. Perhaps some of our members own a piece created by Don.

One of the memories noted in the email letting us know of his passing, someone wrote, "He will still be with us when, at dusk, we pause to do one of his favorite activities -- listen to the song of the Hermit Thrush echoing through the woods." Our sympathy goes out to his family and friends.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lucinda Cave, Tina V. Fanning, and Anton Krieger

THANK YOU

WCAS would like to give a big, shout out Thank You to the bird walk leaders that have led so many walks no matter what the weather. More importantly, the leaders share their information with new as well as our regular attendees. In addition, we have photographers that attend walks to document sightings as well as take group photos. Thank you to **Leaders** Bill Deininger, Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper, Nancy Howell, Al Rand, and Mary Anne Romito; and **Photographers** Michelle Brosius, Shaun Missig, and Al Rand.

The Western Cuyahoga Audubon Feathered Flyer is published 4 times per year in Feb, May, Aug and Nov.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon programs are open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

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Interested in Volunteering? Send an email to info@wcaudubon.org

Visit the Store to download reports, articles, become and renew membership, and donate at <http://bit.ly/2taLgnk>

President

WCAS is currently Board run.

Treasurer

Nancy Howell

Recording Secretary

Michelle Brosius

Directors-at-Large

Michelle Brosius, Bruce Missig, Kurt Miske, Mary Anne Romito, and Tom Romito, President Emeritus.

Field Trip Coordinator

Michelle Brosius

Ambassadors

Global Ambassador: David Lindo; Ambassador to Japan: Kaoru Tsubone.

Web & Marketing

Heather Risher

Visit the WCAudubon Store to become a member, renew membership, or make a donation. The Store offers a selection of nature oriented books, maps, articles, reports, event tickets, gift cards, native plants, bird friendly coffee, and organic soils. Items include Birds & Beans® Coffee, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center Bird Friendly®-certified beans, 100 percent shade-grown, USDA Organic, and Fair-Trade certified, order by 10th/month. Mitchell's Homemade Ice Cream Gift Cards for delicious frozen yogurt, sorbet, vegan ice cream. A new partnership with Tilth Soil at WCAS offers bird friendly gardeners a selection of 3 custom compost soil mixes for indoor and outdoor plantings, and Artwork by Shaun Missig features poetry and seasonal photography at conserved natural areas. Proceeds benefit WCAS.

Visit The Rock Pile Garden Center, 900 Nagel Rd, Avon, OH 44011. Mention you're a member and WCAS gets a small contribution. Tell your cashier you want your donation to go to WCAS!



Shop today at AmazonSmile and designate Western Cuyahoga Audubon as your charitable organization of choice. When you shop at smile.amazon.com the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Western Cuyahoga Audubon.

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