



# THE FEATHERED FLYER

November 2022-  
January 2023

Bird-Friendly Coffee	2
Bird Walks & Field Trips	2-3
Book Club	3
Christmas Bird Count	4
Member Programs	5
Volunteers Needed	6
New Book	7
New Members	7

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## BECOMING A MORE CAREFUL CONSUMER ... OR AM I?

By Nancy Howell, WCAS Board member

How can I be a conscientious consumer to help protect our environment?

I have pondered this question a lot! What brought me to this thought was merely my trash pick-up day. I try to be very, very careful about how much trash I set out. I recycle the types of materials my community allows, I compost almost every speck of food and yard materials that are compostable, I donate usable items to various organizations, electronics and batteries are recycled ... but I am still not pleased with myself, AND I am shocked to see what the folks just on my street throw away. Mind you that there is no AWAY when things get tossed, they wind up in a landfill. How can I get myself and others to become more aware and careful too?

No matter how hard I try, I cannot get away from plastics as they seem pervasive in our world. Packaging and wrappings from food, personal items, and other purchases are the main trash item. I am not one to buy "convenience" items, already prepackaged and overpackaged, I always take my own bags to stores - and many cashiers look at me like I have three heads when I say, "I brought my own bags". (Try it at your drug store, hardware store, clothing store, or big box store). I take an inventory of the grocery items in my cart, how they are packaged and wonder if I can do better. Fruit, such as grapes, are already in plastic bags, berries come in plastic "clam shells" which I refuse to buy ... is there an alternative? I choose peanut butter in a glass jar rather than plastic. I avoid snacks that are packaged in mylar-like bags (plastic with a shiny interior). Crackers and cereal have inner bags that are plastic, and not only that, they are nearly impossible to open without cutting them ... why can't we go back to waxed paper? I see "healthy" snacks - nuts, dried fruit, cheese, yogurt, etc. packaged in separate little plastic trays, sealed with a plastic film then covered with plastic wrap. Over packaged and wasteful in so many ways. "Healthy"? Maybe for a person's diet, but not healthy for the environment.

My community seems to have a good recycling program, but is it really? Do people clean out and sort the correct plastics into the recycle bin? How much of our recycled items are rejected because too much of the wrong plastics, or items that have not been cleaned, are dumped into the bin? Then think about this, two vehicles are needed on trash day, one that picks up the trash then a second that picks up recycling, so two vehicles using fuel ... hmmm?

My yard materials are composted and I love my compost pile. It is amazing how much precious soil I add to the garden. Throughout most of the mowing season  
*continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

(using a battery powered mower) I let the plant clippings decompose on the lawn. I dislike seeing neighborhoods with bags and bags of yard waste that can be composted, but are picked up as trash. I understand that not everyone has the space in a yard, or a lot of time to do this, but some communities have yard waste pick-up or drop off. Do I need to go back and mention the battery powered lawn mower? I've already been questioned about purchasing one since the batteries need to be recharged which uses electricity, and in the manufacturing of the batteries, the element lithium, was needed. I seriously weighed the pros and cons of a battery-powered mower versus a gasoline-powered one. I am working to reduce the amount of area in the yard to be mowed by extending my garden plots and including more native plants. No, it is not easy, but it is something I feel the need to do. How can I educate my neighbors about this?

So many things to be concerned about. How can I be a better, more careful consumer? How can I reduce the items that are sent to a landfill? How can I justify having 2 vehicles pick up trash and recycling each week? I've used the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste website which has lots of information, <https://cuyahogarecycles.org/> as to where recyclables can be dropped off. But it must be easy. I know I don't want to travel all over town to drop items off here, there and everywhere. I am still concerned about getting more people involved in being better, more careful consumers.

With the upcoming holidays and beyond, please be a careful consumer. Think about your purchases. Is the item really needed? How is it packaged? If the package is shipped, how much waste is produced? I would like to see all of us take into account the environment, future generations, and the future of the planet.

## ORDER BIRD-FRIENDLY COFFEE

WCAS places a group order of coffee from Bird & Beans Coffee every quarter and Coffee Coordinator Amanda Sebrosky delivers to addresses in the greater Cleveland area. This helps support the mission of WCAS while saving the habitat of birds we love in Central and South America. Smithsonian certified bird friendly coffee also provides a living-wage to farmers in those areas. **Coffee orders will be submitted on January 10, 2023!**

Please go to Bird Friendly Coffee ([https://www.wcaudubon.org/store/c35/Bird\\_Friendly\\_Coffee.html](https://www.wcaudubon.org/store/c35/Bird_Friendly_Coffee.html)) and order online or by downloading the form and mailing it with your check. The next orders will be placed in January 2023.

## TREMONT TOWPATH TRAIL URBAN BIRD WALKS

**Walks take place on the fourth Saturday at 9:00 a.m.**

**Dates of walks: Just added! November 26, 2022.** There will be no walk on December 24, 2022. 2023 dates are: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, and October 28.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has a series of bird walks to encourage an appreciation for the birds and wildlife in urban settings. Mark your calendars with the dates noted above. We'll discover a variety of birds, plants and other interesting bits of nature along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and Cuyahoga River.

New to birdwatching? Bring binoculars if you have them, dress for the weather conditions and have extra layers just in case, a water bottle, comfortable footwear, and curiosity about the natural world. Walking is relatively easy along the paved Towpath and urban streets. Join us and learn with this friendly group!

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>



*Photo: Lester the Lesser Scaup by Michelle Brosius*

## SECOND SATURDAY BIRD WALKS



*Photo: Second Saturday Birders by Margaret Glenn*

The Second Saturday Bird Walk is our very popular bird walk along the beautiful Rocky River Nature Center trails where you will find a variety of habitats (i.e., woodland, marsh, river, field) and, therefore, a variety of bird species. Join us the second Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. at the Rocky River Nature Center to enjoy the beautiful landscape, thrilling birds, and good company. We appreciate our knowledgeable leaders, Bill Deininger, Dave Graskemper, Ken Gober, and Al Rand.

**Dates:** Saturdays, November 12, 2022, December 10, 2022, and January 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

**Leaders:** Bill Deininger, Dave Graskemper, Ken Gober, and Al Rand

**Location:** Cleveland Metroparks, Rocky River Reservation. Meet at the Rocky River Nature Center parking lot at 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070

## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS FOR 2022-23

Host Drina Nemes, Western Cuyahoga Audubon member, leads us in our third online season as we explore 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.

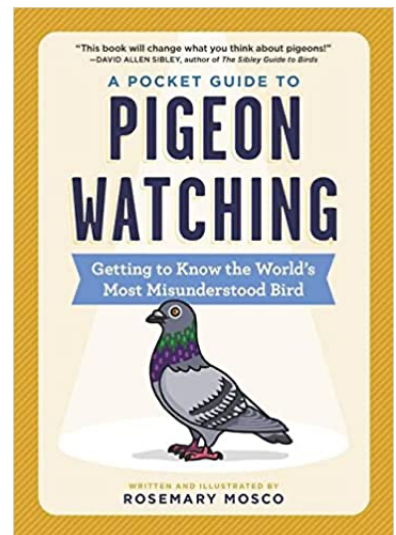
All books are available at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Cuyahoga Public Library](https://www.cuyahogapubliclibrary.org) as well as other book venues for purchase or borrowing.

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

**NEW DATE!** Tuesday, January 31, 7-8 p.m.

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

"Pigeons coo, peck and nest all over the world, yet most of us treat them with indifference or disdain. So, Rosemary Mosco, a bird-lover, science communicator, writer, and cartoonist is here to give the pigeon's image a makeover, and to help every town- and city-dweller get closer to nature by discovering the joys of birding through pigeon-watching."



**"A World on the Wing – The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds"** by Scott Weidensaul.  
Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 7 -8 p.m.

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

"In vivid prose that conjures up the rich spell of each landscape, Scott Weidensaul takes us on exhilarating expeditions that crisscross the globe and travel deep into the heart of nature." Diane Ackerman, author of "The Zookeeper's Wife."

**Environment of the Americas** hosts a monthly series, <https://www.migratorybirdday.org/bird-book-club/>. On Thursday, October 27, 2023, at 8 p.m., The End of Night will be featured, with author Paul Bogard leading the presentation.

David Lindo's live webinar series **In Conservation With** has several programs scheduled during these later months of 2022, <https://theurbanbirderworld.com/live-webinars/>



# HOLIDAY BIRDING AT ITS BEST:

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2022

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in 2022, sponsored by Western Cuyahoga Audubon, will take place on Friday, December 30. What ... the CBC on a weekday? Yes, IT has been done before since the big holidays of Christmas and New Year's fall on the weekends. Join birders and friends in our Count Circle, called the Lakewood Circle. Birding during the holiday season is a great way to involve family and friends, help to collect data for National Audubon, and simply enjoy what the season brings.

Here's what's in store for the 2022 count:

- ***A virtual pre-Christmas Bird Count Kickoff on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.*** The Count Circle area will be discussed, we'll fill in areas that need coverage within the Count Circle, participants will have the opportunity to sign-up for areas, and have some Bird ID review of the more challenging species that may be encountered. This is an invitation to new CBC birders as well as seasoned CBC participants. Woo-hoo ... get excited about the day! Register on Eventbrite: <https://WCAS-2022PreCBC.eventbrite.com>
- ***The Christmas Bird Count itself on Friday, December 30*** - NOT virtual but out tallying birds. It is the REAL DEAL!
- ***Christmas Bird Count Dinner/Wrap-Up***  
We plan to gather **in person** on Friday, December 30, at 6:30 p.m. for our dinner and wrap-up. Details are in the works with additional information will be available soon.

Not familiar with the Christmas Bird Count? On Count Day, Friday, December 30, individuals or small groups go out part or all of the day to an assigned location within the Count Circle. The Circle covers much of the western lakefront, into Lorain Co. (Avon Lake, Avon, and North Ridgeville), south to the northern border of Strongsville (Ohio Turnpike is a good boundary reference), and east to Brooklyn and some of Parma Hts. The Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle Map 2022 shows locations that are covered as well as those that need coverage <http://bit.ly/2IR3kJV>. Explore our Audubon Christmas Bird Count Lakewood Circle reports at our Scribd library at <https://goo.gl/APBzat> to learn more. We always need participants to bird some of the greenspaces in neighborhoods. Take a walk in a nearby park, cemetery, or around your neighborhood as long as it is within the Count Circle. Don't want to walk? Driving routes, stopping and counting species at various points, may be done OR keeping track of species coming to your feeder! Novice birders or experts, families and friends, individuals or groups, everyone's participation is appreciated. Don't forget, we at WCAS want all participants to be safe and practice COVID-19 precautions.

Here are some tips and things to consider:

- Owling in the early morning or the evening of count day! (Not mandatory, but a way to get those nocturnal species.)
- List all species AND the number of individual birds of each species while out in the field or watching feeders and yard.
- Cover neighborhoods, cemeteries, parks, or greenspaces in the Count Circle as long as they are not being covered by another person or team (contact Nancy Howell for areas being covered... or not).
- Drive-around birding is good too. Drive, stop, look, and tally along a route. Again, contact Nancy Howell for areas that need coverage.
- Keep track of hours birding (walking or driving) and feeder-watching, as well as distance walked and/or driven.

Please contact Nancy Howell, Lakewood Circle compiler, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count at [nancyhowell@wcaudubon.org](mailto:nancyhowell@wcaudubon.org) or call 440-891-1710 through Wednesday, December 28. In the meantime, take care because we want to see you out on the trails and birding in the future.

# MEMBER PROGRAMS

**November Program:** *"Volunteer for Climate Watch: It's All About Birds!"*

**Presenter:** Mary Anne Romito, Western Cuyahoga Audubon's Climate Watch Coordinator

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom. Register on Eventbrite: <https://WCAS-ClimateWatch.eventbrite.com>

**Description:** National Audubon Society's Climate Watch is an important resource for tracking changes in bird populations as the climate, and habitats, change. Birders, new and seasoned, are needed to monitor bird species twice each year, once in the winter and once in the summer. Mary Anne Romito, Western Cuyahoga Audubon's Climate Watch coordinator, will share information on what Climate Watch is about, where the survey takes place, and a few easy steps as to how to participate. This will bring actual data to determine, in the long run, how habitats are changing and how bird species are faring. We love birds and the enjoyment they bring, so your help with collecting data is crucial.

**December Program:** *"Going for the Gold: Three Decades of Prothonotary Warbler Husbandry"*

**Presenter:** Dan Best, former naturalist with the Geauga Parks, and Rachel McKinney, volunteer

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

**Location:** Zoom. Register on Eventbrite: <https://WCAS-Prothonotary.eventbrite.com>

**Description:** This program presents the trials and triumphs of providing artificial nest cavities, notably the use of converted fiber supplement jars, to bolster the nesting success of Prothonotary Warblers on the Upper Cuyahoga River in Geauga County. Measures to contend with - tree swallow competition, cowbird nest parasitism, predators, and flood waters - will be shared along with breeding biology and findings on longevity, pair bonding and multi-year nest site faithfulness through the use of banding. Climate-related habitat change on nest jar use in recent years will be addressed in this summary of a 30 year project to promote the "golden swamp warbler."



*Photo: Prothonotary Warbler by Matt Valencic*



*Photo: Yellow-rumped Warbler by Michelle Brosius*

**January Program:** *"Bird Photography: Exploring Nature Through a Lens"*

**Presenter:** Michelle Brosius, WCAS Board Member and Field Trip Coordinator

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom. Register on Eventbrite:

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

**Description:** Join us as Michelle Brosius shares her experiences with nature through photography. Michelle took up wildlife photography in 2020, focusing mostly on birds, in an effort to document her experiences with nature and donate her photographs to WCAS and other conservation organizations. Michelle has captured beautiful bird images and will describe her experiences as a photographer viewing the natural world.

## HOLIDAY RAFFLE

On **November 1**, be sure to check out our online store for Holiday Raffle Baskets! WCAS has received very charitable donations of new and like-new holiday decorations and other festive items to help you get into the holiday spirit... and for a good cause. Your participation in this raffle will help WCAS to fund a scholarship (or two) for a youth and/or educator (i.e., teacher, naturalist) to meet their needs in connecting with nature, whether that be a camp experience, continuing education requirement, or tools to use in the field (e.g., binoculars). WCAS will match up to \$300 raised. The drawing for basket winners will take place during our member meeting on **Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.** via Zoom. Winners do not need to be present.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WCAS

Organizations depend on volunteers and we hope that some of our members or guests can offer a couple of hours a month to help WCAS. Training and assistance will be provided for anyone not as familiar with Western Cuyahoga Audubon. Contact Nancy Howell at [info@wcaudubon.org](mailto:info@wcaudubon.org) with your interests and any questions.

## 1. **Representative to The Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC)**

Western Cuyahoga Audubon would like to have one of our members be a representative of our organization to The Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters. The representative would report to COAC on what WCAS is doing and will report back to the WCAS Board on news from COAC. Generally there is one meeting, via Zoom per month. If the representative is interested in joining one of the 3 COAC committees - conservation, website development, or training and teaching, there would be additional Zoom meetings.

## 2. **Writers**

WCAS would love to have our members and guests write articles for the quarterly newsletter and/or for the website. Stories, native plant information, life history of bird species, reviews of birding areas, parks or natural areas visited, and perhaps some things we didn't even think of. Articles would not need to be very long and would be edited for punctuation and grammar, but we wouldn't want to lose "your voice" in the writing. Give it a try ... we want to hear from you!

## 3. **Board Meeting Assistance**

The WCAS monthly Board meetings could use an extra hand by having a person create the agenda for the meeting. Agenda items would need to be received by a particular date, the agenda written up and sent out at least 2 days prior to the Board meeting. There is the possibility that Agenda items crop up unexpectedly and the agenda would need to be modified and resent.

## 4. **Education**

Help to revive our Education committee. How can we make WCAS more accessible to educators and students? Could WCAS provide homeschool students with information? Might WCAS offer field trips for any aged learner - school students, homeschoolers, senior learners, learners with different abilities? There can be so many ways to get the word out about enjoying and learning about birds and the environment. All ideas are welcome and having more than one volunteer work in this area would be great!

## 5. **Fundraising Assistance**

WCAS would like to have some fun, fundraising and friend-raising activities. Silent auctions, birding challenges, or other ways to enjoy birds, the outdoors and the company of other nature lovers. We hope creative ideas will get flowing. Might you consider this?

## 6. **Native Plants for Birds & Wildlife**

We would like to revive our native plant sales. Native plants are beneficial for birds, wildlife, and yes, people too! We can start out slowly with a few plants, then "grow" (pun intended) our selection of plants. Coordinator would need to know native plants, find out where they can be ordered, help to market the plants, have a native plant event, or know when events are happening and join them. The birds will love you for this!

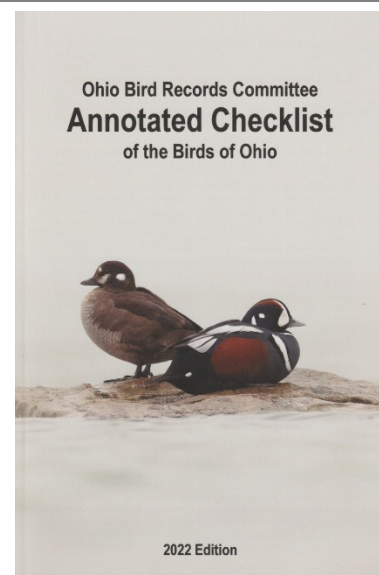


## NEW PUBLICATION

The Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC), in cooperation with the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS), is pleased to announce the publication of the 2022 edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio* authored by Robert Harlan. This newest edition contains current and historical information about the 443 bird species countable in Ohio up to March 2022.

The Checklist provides a way to keep track of the birds seen in Ohio with a box next to each species that can be “checked off”, as well as bar charts and annotations that give guidance on when to expect species in Ohio across a calendar year, as well as abundance and population trends.

OOS is working on making the publication available via their website as well as to various bird clubs and organizations. In the meantime, copies may be purchased at Time & Optics located in Mt. Hope (Holmes Co.), 6954 Co. Rd. 77, Millersburg, OH 44654 or call (330) 674-0210 to have them sent by mail. The publication is \$5.00 per copy. If ordered over the phone from Time & Optics, postage and handling is \$2.00 for one booklet and \$10.00 for 5 or more copies going to one mailing address.



## NEW MEMBERS

Thank you and welcome to these new members to Western Cuyahoga Audubon:

Mary Anderson

Toby Briskin and Family

Lee Cavano

Brenda Fisher

Linda Heddleson

Holly Henry

Catherine Hildebrand

David Hildebrand

Benjamin Ihde - Business membership

Eileen Kinney

Gale Kistemaker

Myron Palay

**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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**Web:** [www.wcaudubon.org](http://www.wcaudubon.org)

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**Interested in Volunteering?** Send an email to [info@wcaudubon.org](mailto: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

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

Subscribe to our WCAS e-blasts. Electronic information comes out once a week with reminders and updates on events, programs and things that might be of interest.

Here's the link to sign up:

<https://www.wcaudubon.org/newsletter-sign-up.html>

Remember, if you feel you are receiving too many emails you may unsubscribe at any time.



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.



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

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