



THE FEATHERED FLYER

May-July 2022

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LIGHTS OUT CLEVELAND

By Amanda Sebrosky, WCAS member and founder of Northeast Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation Society

World Migratory Bird Day is Saturday, May 14, and their theme is “Dim the Lights for Birds at Night.” What’s that all about? Many species migrate at night taking advantage of cool, calm air and a reduction in the number of predators, particularly hawks and falcons. These birds navigate using light from the moon, the stars, and the setting sun like the ancient mariners. This was fine before humans started to ‘light the night’.



Photo: Map of the United States showing light pollution in cities. From NASA

Cleveland is part of the Atlantic Flyway for migrating birds. This is one of four main routes that migratory birds can take as they pass over the United States. Cornell Lab of Ornithology has used sightings from eBird to map the routes which can be viewed by searching “mesmerizing flyways” at <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>.

The Atlantic Flyway includes many cities with buildings that are lighted at night and have a lot of reflective surfaces like glass. The bright lights of our urban areas confuse these birds and pull them out of their way especially when there is rain or fog when birds may fly at lower altitudes. At night, birds can be caught in the skyward facing lights flying around and around until they drop from exhaustion. Per the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) of Canada, during the day, reflected light from windows poses a severe threat to birds because “they can see **through glass** and what is **reflected on glass**, but they cannot see the glass itself.” The birds may be attracted to plants or sky reflected in the glass or a plant inside the glass leading to a collision.

Lights Out Cleveland (LOC) is part of a network of organizations working to make the urban landscape safer for birds in general and migratory birds in particular. Led by Tim Jasinski, volunteers hit the streets of downtown Cleveland at o-Dark-Thirty every morning during spring and fall migration seasons to collect any birds that have collided with buildings. Dead birds are cataloged and sent to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to be preserved for study. Live, but injured birds are rehabilitated at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Bay Village, and released. Birds that live but cannot be released are sent to organizations for continued care and educational purposes.

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Lights Out Cleveland, continued from page 1

Because of data collected by volunteers all over Ohio, Ohio Lights Out has been able to convince building management of some buildings to reduce or eliminate exterior lighting from midnight to dawn during the migration seasons. You can see a list of all Ohio programs and enrolled buildings at <http://ohiolightsout.org>. Because of this program, about 30 buildings in downtown Cleveland have enrolled in the Lights Out Cleveland program.

But what about you and me? What can we do? First, we can protect cats AND birds by keeping our cats inside since cats kill even more birds than those killed by collisions with buildings. We can volunteer in one of the programs found on the Ohio Lights Out website. But if this isn't your cup-of-tea, there are things you can do at home since, according to Ohio Lights Out, about 44% of all bird-building collisions occur at residences. You can reduce nighttime lighting, treat reflective glass, and place shrubs and bird feeders away from windows. Additionally, keep windows clear of vegetation since fleeing birds can hit a window that is behind the vegetation.

If you are interested in making your home more bird friendly, sign up for the Certified Home Program at <http://ohiolightsout.org> and receive information to help you live in harmony with wildlife.

If you would like to help Lake Erie Nature and Science Center with rehabilitation and collection of birds, please go to their website <https://www.lensc.org/> and select 'donate'. There is a comment section that you can specify Lights Out Cleveland.

MEMBER PROGRAMS

May Program: "Lake Erie Herring Gulls"

Presenter: Bruce Buckingham

Date & Time: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Online/virtual. Members will be sent the link; nonmembers should register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wcas-speaker-series-lake-erie-herring-gulls-tickets-321493956077>

Description: The Herring Gull population in the Great Lakes has been declining in recent years so current data is needed to determine critical factors that affect their population. These gulls are the lake's cleanup crew and an indicator of the lake's health. Color banding of nestling gulls give us information on a number of things, such as where they migrate to, what route they take, where they spend the 3 years before they breed, feeding areas, nesting site fidelity, and much more. Herring Gulls at the Sandusky Bay Turning Point colony has been monitored since 1981. Much data has been gleaned over time, but the gulls keep changing. We have been able to map where they spend their first winter and the fact that only 51% of the young gulls return to breed in the same colony where they were raised. These and more questions need to be answered. Join us for this informative presentation.



Photo: Herring Gull by Shaun Missig

June Program: **LIVE! IN-PERSON! WCAS Picnic, Plant Exchange, and Bird Walk**

Presenter: WCAS members and guests

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 starting at 6:00 p.m., but come when you can

Location: Lagoon Picnic Area, Valley Pkwy, Brook Park, OH 44138, USA **Map:** <https://goo.gl/maps/osx8Vitsw7vXExyn8>

Description: Finally, WCAS members and guests can gather in-person for the WCAS Picnic, Plant Exchange and Bird Walk. Join us at the shelter of the Lagoon Picnic Area in the Rocky River Reservation. Bring your tablecloth, place settings and picnic dinner as we dine and chat with other WCAS members and friends. A grill will be available for those who would like to cook or heat their food. After dinner we will take an easy bird walk around the picnic area to the river and lagoon. But wait, there's more! Bring any plants - flower and vegetable seeds, bulbs, outdoor plants or indoor plants to share and exchange with others. Don't have plants to share ... that's okay, come for dinner and the walk AND take plants to add to your garden, yard or home. We look forward to seeing all of our WCAS friends. Masks are not required, but if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask - please do!

No Members Speaker Series in July and August. The new season will begin in September. Enjoy your summer!

SECOND SATURDAY BIRD WALKS

New to birding? Grab a pair of binoculars and join us. You'll be amazed how quickly you can learn!

Dates of walks: Saturdays, May 14, June 11, & July 9, 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



Photo: American Goldfinch by Michelle Brosius

TREMONT TOWPATH TRAIL URBAN BIRD WALKS

Walks take place on the fourth Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Nancy Howell and Al Rand **Dates of walks:** Saturdays, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, and October 22, 2022

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has a series of bird walks to encourage an appreciation for the birds and wildlife that also call the Tremont neighborhood their home. No need to travel to a distant woodland trail. In this urban setting 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? We'd love to have you join us and learn with this friendly group. What to bring? Binoculars if you have them (but they are not required),

dress for the weather conditions and have extra layers just in case, a water bottle, comfortable shoes, and curiosity about the natural world. Walking is relatively easy along the paved Towpath and urban streets.

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. Mark your calendars!



Photo: Tremont Bird Walk by Shaun Missig

WCAS EVENING BIRD WALKS 2022



Photo: Birders on the Lake to Lake Trail by Michelle Brosius

Wednesday, July 20

Where: Fowles Marsh and surrounding areas

Meeting place: Parking lot of the Engle Rd Sledding Hill off of Engle Rd. in Middleburg Hts.

<https://birding-in-ohio.com/cuyahoga-county/engle-road-sledding-hill/>

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. Below is the list of walk locations. Nancy Howell will lead all three of these walks.

Wednesday, June 15

Where: Westlake Wetland and Evergreen Cemetery

Meeting place: Back parking area, 29535 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake 44145 <https://goo.gl/maps/araQPwgPHkHXtitQA>

Wednesday, August 17

Where: West Creek Reservation

Meeting place: Main parking lot of the Watershed Stewardship Center, 2277 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma 44134

<https://tinyurl.com/WCReservationWCAS>

SPRING BIRD WALK SERIES 2022

The series is one of the oldest community science partnerships between Northeast Ohio park systems, Audubon groups, and other organizations now in its 89th year. It is also a celebration of migratory birds, some remaining to breed in the many habitats of northeast Ohio, while others using the habitats as a stopover as they travel north to breeding areas. Walks are led by experienced birders and will be held on Sundays, May 1, 8 and 15 at 7:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Locations are spread across the greater Cleveland region and can be found on our website at <https://www.wcaudubon.org/news-blog/2022-spring-bird-walks>.

BIGGEST DAY WITH DAVID LINDO

SAVE THE DATE, Friday, May 20! David Lindo, the Urban Birder, will be in Cleveland for the day as he wants to visit with his Cleveland friends and do some relaxing birding. Western Cuyahoga Audubon will have a nice set of events for the day including:

- A morning birding excursion along the hot spots of Lake Erie around Cleveland
- Lunch with a group at a local restaurant
- A late afternoon/early evening walk in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- A group dinner

More information will be available as the plans are finalized. Get your binoculars ready and spend all or part of the day with David and birding friends!

Check our website for the latest information: <https://www.wcaudubon.org/big-day-with-david-lindo.html>

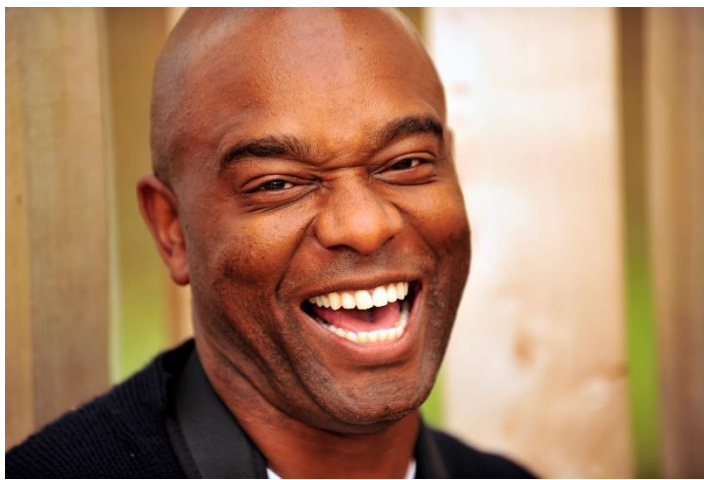


Photo: David Lindo by Russell Spencer

WCAS 2022 SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

By Penny O'Connor

Can owl flight help us learn how to reduce noise pollution? Justice Arai of University School investigated this idea to win one of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's \$100 top Special Awards at the 69th North East Ohio Science and Engineering Fair, held virtually during the first two weeks of March 2022. The other \$100 winner, Omar Elbadawy, studied how to make concrete more eco-friendly with plant-based or plastic admixtures. Omar is a student at Birchwood Elementary.

WCAS makes awards for the best projects involving birds and/or conservation with emphasis on local watersheds. WCAS also gave Honorable mention to Julian Brown of Hawken Upper School, for a study on tree size in relation to invasive and nuisance shrubs; to Ceclija Dautovic of Beaumont School, for a project comparing erosion of soil and crushed limestone; and finally to Tim Toliver of Hawken Upper School, for his work on self-healing concrete with *Fusarium oxysporum*.

The NEOSEF annual science and engineering competition is open to students in grades 7-12 from all over Northeast Ohio. Students with the top-rated projects in the entire fair earn a chance to compete in the Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair (9th-12th grades), or the Society for Science and the Public's Broadcom MASTERS program (7th-8th grades). This year, one of the WCAS special award winners, Omar Elbadawy, won a nomination to Broadcomm MASTERS.

WCAS science fair judges were Debra Jesionowski, Michelle Manzo and Penny O'Connor.

BIRD-FRIENDLY COFFEE UPDATE

By Amanda Sebrosky, WCAS Coffee Coordinator

Did you know... In the rainforests, the majority of the nutrients are in the canopy. Once the vegetation is gone due to clear-cutting, soil nutrients are depleted within a few years so large-scale producers move-on to clearcut a new area. Not only does this deprive many animals of their habitat, it leads to erosion of the meager topsoil, dumping pesticide laden soil into the streams. Smithsonian certified bird friendly coffee is 100% shade-grown and 100% organic so you are protecting the birds we love by lowering the impact of coffee-drinking.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Starting in April, we are placing orders quarterly. We must have a minimum order to get free shipping. Without free shipping, we lose money, negatively impacting our ability to further our mission. **Our next order will be processed on July 10.** The packaging is very good and will keep your coffee fresh.

GREAT DEAL! WCAS has 1-5# bag of Scarlet Tanager Dark Roast at the reduced cost of \$50! This coffee was sent to WCAS by mistake so not only are you helping birds but you are saving \$5.00 AND helping WCAS find a home for misplaced coffee! If you are interested, email us at info@wcaudubon.org with '5# coffee' in the subject line.

Otherwise – you can go to Bird Friendly Coffee (wcaudubon.org) and order on-line or by downloading the form and mailing it with your check.

Enjoy cold brew coffee this summer! Recipe from Taste of Home.

How to Make Cold Brew Coffee at Home

Ingredients:

1 cup coarsely ground coffee
6-8 cups cold water
Large (64-ounce) Mason jar
Mesh sieve

Step 1: Add your coarsely ground coffee to a large Mason jar (a glass pitcher with a lid also works), then top with six to eight cups of cold water. Cover the container and refrigerate for at least 12 hours. You can let it sit for up to 24 hours for a stronger brew.

Step 2: After 12 hours (or more), strain the coffee through a fine-mesh sieve. Discard the grounds. Then, do a second strain, this time pouring the coffee through a coffee filter. This will remove any fine particles or grounds, yielding the smoothest possible cup.



Photo: Iced coffee by Taste of Home



Photo by Penny Brandau

BLUEBIRD PROJECT

By Kurt Miske, WCAS Board member

We resumed monitoring the 5 nest boxes in mid-March. While we have seen a few bluebirds, they are not nesting yet. We have not seen tree sparrows yet. House sparrows are building in at least one nest box (other partial nests appear to be decoys) and we are monitoring the situation. We will NOT raise any house sparrows! Hopefully the weather will warm up soon and bluebirds again use our boxes.

AVIAN FLU

By Nancy Howell, WCAS Board member

Information about Avian Influenza or Avian Flu has been circulating among Audubon and other birding organizations. As recently as March 30, 2022, a notification about Avian Flu, from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, was sent regarding the flu detected in a backyard poultry flock in Franklin County, Ohio.

Without a doubt, commercial poultry farmers and egg producing facilities are concerned. Backyard poultry flock owners should also be aware of this disease as it spreads quickly among birds, especially those raised in confinement (chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese and guinea fowl). The disease is carried primarily by free flying waterfowl (ducks and geese) and shorebirds, and possibly other species of wild birds. At this time, it is not a human public health concern. As always, the Department of Agriculture does remind people that proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs is a general food safety precaution.

For those with a backyard poultry flock. Please follow the best practices guidelines at the following link. <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/animal-health/resources/02.25.2022HPAIUpdate>

But what about wild birds? Avian Flu occurs naturally in bird populations and is monitored closely. Native species, such as shorebirds, raptors (hawks and eagles), and waterfowl (ducks and geese) appear to be more vulnerable to Avian Flu. What should I do if I find sick or deceased wild birds? Wild birds that are ill or dead should be reported to the Ohio Division of Wildlife, 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543), or at wildohio.gov.

SHERWIN WILLIAMS UPDATE

By Nancy Howell, WCAS Board member

First, Sherwin-Williams published a document in December 2021 titled, [Sherwin-Williams Headquarters Final Design Submission](#), which incorporated Sherwin-Williams Responses to public comments as well as the public comments, your letters. Not all letters were published, but those that were, clearly discussed the impact of the reflective glass and lighting on nocturnal, migratory birds.

View the document here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0nflo8z4czt9bdv/SWDec2021Response.pdf?dl=0>

Additionally, Patty Kellner, President of the Kirtland Bird Club, had a short telephone conversation with Joyce Huang, City Planning Director, and here are some crucial notes from the conversation.

- Ms. Huang said the Sherwin Williams glass has been bought. She thinks the only way Sherwin Williams will do something is if their employees protest the collisions, that they will not pay attention to petitions or other citizen activity - that it's all about them saving money.
- Ms. Huang agreed that we (the birding community) should focus on talking to Sherwin Williams. She said she will be meeting with them, but they have been trying to delay. Patty Kellner suggested Maria Spangler, the community liaison, might be the best initial contact.
- Ms. Huang is in favor of a bird-safe glass ordinance, and says she intends to work on it down the road, just "not in the first 100 days" of the new administration
- Ms. Huang said all members of City Council support greenspace and outdoor activity. She suggested talking to Kelly McCormack and also thought Rebecca Maurer, Jenny Spencer, and Councilman Hairston, whose district includes the CHEERS area, might be supportive of bird-friendly measures.

So what should the next steps be?

- A small group of representatives from Western Cuyahoga Audubon is needed to assist other birding organizations in taking action. Your help is needed NOW ... for the sake of the birds. If interested, please contact info@wcaudubon.org.

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Sherwin Williams Update, continued from page 6

What can the group work on to get the public involved?

- More letter writing to and/or meeting with Sherwin Williams board members
- Get Sherwin-Williams employees to become involved in demanding bird-safe glass
- Letter writing to Mayor Justin Bibb
- Spreading awareness by sharing on social media
- Contact with Kelly McCormack and other city council members (Invite for bird walks?)
- An Op-ed for Plain Dealer
- Any other creative, yet impactful ideas to bring the issue to the forefront

If you have any questions regarding these activities, please reach out to us at info@wcaudubon.org.

Thank you!

NATIVE PLANT MONTH

By Nancy Howell, WCAS Board member

A quick reminder that April is not only the month that Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 29) are celebrated, but the entire month of April is Ohio/National Native Plant Month. Even when April is over please continue to plant, and encourage others to include native plants in the landscape.... no matter what month. Visit the Ohio Native Plant Month website, www.ohionativeplantmonth.org, as well as the resources on the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership website, www.leapbio.org.

Why native plants?

- They are adapted to the local climate, soils, moisture and more
- They provide the wildlife in our area with food and/or shelter. This includes insects and other invertebrates, especially native pollinators, as well as larger vertebrates
- They are beautiful at different seasons
- They don't need a lot of extra care when planted in areas to which they are adapted
- There is a huge variety of plants from which to select - wildflowers, ferns, sedges, shrubs, vines, and coniferous and deciduous trees. Planting a variety, from ground level to understory shrubs and trees to larger trees, provides different height levels of plant growth ... like a natural area!



Photo: Orange Butterfly Weed and Coneflower by Tom Fishburn

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome new members! Brenda Loffelmann and Maureen Meslovich

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

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WCAS is currently Board run.

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Field Trip Coordinator

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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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