



Aug 2017 - Oct 2017

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> CONNECT

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A New WCAS Year!

Nancy Howell, Western Cuyahoga Audubon, Board Member

"WCAS plays a role in future communications to bring together National Audubon and the hard-working, local grassroots chapters."

A year goes by so quickly, probably because everyone has been busy with many activities. So has Western Cuyahoga Audubon. Believe it or not, it is chapter renewal time, so why renew or become a chapter member? The most important aspect is that as a chapter member, YOU play an important role. Volunteer opportunities, educational opportunities and just knowing that funds are used locally. Take a few moments to review what WCAS accomplished last membership year ... no wonder the year went by so fast ... and WCAS wants to do even more during the new membership year.

- ❖ Eight educational Speaker Series Programs with diverse subjects, such as bumblebees, advances in ornithology and the pleasure of photographing birds.
- ❖ Eleven Field Trips to various locations around northeast Ohio.
- ❖ Second Saturday Bird Walks in the Rocky River Reservation led by wonderfully talented birders who share their knowledge willingly.
- ❖ The Christmas Bird Count with lots of participants and lots of birds including unusual species, such as Harlequin Duck, Turkey Vulture and Common Yellowthroat. You would expect the latter two species in the spring or summer, but not the end of December.
- ❖ WCAS was a Community Partner and co-sponsor for the film, Tale of a Lake, at the 41st Cleveland International Film Festival. This led to the beautifully produced Lake Erie Legends series on our website tying in the film with our own freshwater systems right at our doorstep and the commission of the Rocky River View Scenic Slide, decorative artwork that brings nature into your home.
- ❖ The sale of Birds and Beans, bird-friendly coffee, the ONLY chapter selling this delicious, environmentally and socially conscious coffee in Northeast Ohio!
- ❖ Participation in judging entries and awarding prizes to students at the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair on topics of environmental concern. Support of students is key to the future.
- ❖ Displays at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Explorer Lectures, and #Cliff41 help spread the word about WCAS.



Photo: Wide Focus by Alice Merkel. Sandy Ridge Reservation, 6195 Otten Rd, North Ridgeville, OH 44039.

- ❖ Attendance at a meeting of Ohio Audubon chapters with WCAS taking a lead role in future communications to bring together National Audubon and the hard-working, local grassroots chapters. More to come in the 2017-2018 membership year!
- ❖ An even easier to navigate website with oodles of information.
- ❖ Memberships and other purchases can be made via PayPal
- ❖ Partnership with Amazon Smile. A simple and easy way to donate 0.5% of your AmazonSmile purchases to Western Cuyahoga Audubon at <https://smile.amazon.com>.

While some of the things mentioned are small, they add up to a successful organization. What else adds to a successful organization? YOU as a chapter supporter. Please remember to renew and ask someone who is not a member to become one so that Western Cuyahoga Audubon continues to be a force in conservation education, habitat stewardship, and advocate for the protection of birds and bird habitats.

BIRD WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS >>>



Photos (left to right): August Birders & Yellow Wingstem by Penny O'Connor; Bald Eagles by Mary Anne Romito; August Channel by Penny O'Connor.

Second Saturday Bird Walks at Rocky River Nature Center

UPCOMING DATES: Aug 12, 2017 / Sept 9, 2017 / Oct 14, 2017

Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper and Bill Deininger lead walks on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM on trails around the Rocky River Reservation, home of the Rocky River Important Bird Area. New to birding? Grab some binoculars and join us. You'll be amazed how fast you can learn birds by sight and sound. Walks begin at the Rocky River Nature Center parking lot, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH.

> *Saturday, Aug 5, 9:00 AM*

Field Trip to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Date & Time: Sat Aug 5, 2017 at 9:00am**Location:** 14000 OH-2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449**Target species:** Shorebirds and summer residents**Leader:** Justin Woldt**** Registration required ****

Meet by the Ottawa Visitor Center for a bus or tram tour just for WCAS. We hope to see shorebirds and summer residents, possibly in some non-public areas of the refuge. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is the only National Wildlife Refuge in Ohio. Registration is required because of the capacity of the bus or tram. E-mail or call Penny O'Connor, Field Trip Coordinator at pjo@earthlink.net or (216) 676-4859.



Photo: Green-winged teal (*Anas carolinensis*) by Tom Koerner / USFWS [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons.

> *Sunday, Sept 3, 9:00 AM*

Field Trip to Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Date & Time: Sun Sept 3, 2017 at 9:00am - 11:30am**Location:** Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH 44140**Leader:** Tim Jasinski, Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist**Target Species:** Early Migrants

Description: Enjoy a walk through the woods, fields and beach at Cleveland Metroparks Huntington Reservation. Early migrants will be our focus, early warblers or maybe late shorebirds.



Photo: Black-throated green warbler (*Setophaga virens*) by Dave Lewis.

> *Sunday, Oct 15, 9:00 AM*

Field Trip to Letha House Park and Spencer Lake

Date & Time: Sun Oct 15, 2017 at 9:00am**Location:** Letha House Park, 5745 Richman Road, Spencer OH 44256**Leaders:** Ken and Helen Ostermiller**Target Species:** Sparrows and Finches

Letha House Park and Spencer Lake have a nice variety of songbirds and waterfowl. Ken and Helen Ostermiller bird here often. (See *Field Trip driving directions* next page...)



Photo: Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) by Jim McCormac.

MAPS AND DIRECTIONS >>>



OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Directions: Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, 14000 OH-2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449 is about 90 miles from Cleveland. The address is 14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449. Take I-90 west from Cleveland, staying right when Route 2 splits off. Continue west on Route 2 past Sandusky, Port Clinton, Camp Perry and the Davis-Besse Nuclear Plant. Route 2 will change from a superhighway to a two-lane road. Watch for the entrance to the refuge on the right side of the road, not far past Benton-Carroll Road.

LAKE ERIE NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER

Directions: Meet at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140. The Center is located on Wolf Road, at the corner of Porter Creek Drive in the Huntington Reservation Cleveland Metroparks.

From the West, via Interstate 90 East:

- Exit 156, Crocker-Bassett Roads.
- Turn left on Crocker Road, which becomes Bassett Rd at the railroad tracks.
- Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance will be .7 miles on the north (left) side of the road. *(Continued...)*

From the East, via Interstate 90 West:

- Exit 159, Columbia Road north.
- Turn right on Columbia Road.
- Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance will be 1.9 miles on the left side of the road.

From the South, Interstate 480 East OR West:

- Exit 3, Stearns Road.
- From 480 Eastbound, turn left/ From 480 Westbound, turn right onto Stearns.
- Stearns will become Crocker Rd. After passing over I-90 at the railroad tracks, Crocker will become Bassett Road.
- Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance will be .7 miles on the left side of the road.

LETHA HOUSE PARK AND SPENCER LAKE

Directions: We will meet at the picnic shelter at Letha House Park East in the Medina County Park District. The address is 5745 Richman Road, Spencer, OH 44256. Richman Road is off Spencer Lake Rd.

Directions from Cleveland area:

Take I-480 West. Continue on Ohio 10 West (Signs for Oberlin/State Hwy 10 W/US-20 Norwalk) Take Exit 3 toward North Ridgeville/State Hwy 80/Wooster. Turn Left at the end of the exit ramp. Next turn left at Lorain Road (signs for Wooster Avon) Follow signs to Route 83 south. Turn Right at Avon Belden Road/Ohio 83/Wooster-Avon Lake Rd. Go about 13 miles to Litchfield. There is a traffic circle in Litchfield. Continue around to the right and stay on Rte. 83 south. At Spencer Lake Road, turn right.

For Letha House Park, turn right on Richman Road (small gravel road). There is a sign for County Park. Go uphill a few hundred feet. Letha House West is on the left, and Letha House East is on the right.

For Spencer Lake Wildlife Area, we will follow Spencer Lake Road past Richman Road and over train tracks until it dead-ends into Root Rd. (County Rd 58). Turn Left. Entrance to Spencer Lake is on the right.

SPEAKER SERIES >>>

Western Cuyahoga Audubon programs are free and open to the public. Monthly presentations are held the first Tuesday of each month, September through May, at the Rocky River Nature Center, Rocky River Reservation, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH. Guests are invited to learn about the Audubon mission. 2017-18 Speaker Series: <https://goo.gl/ZSRy8F>



Above: Jonathan Cepek, Wildlife Ecologist, Cleveland Metroparks.

> Tues, Sept 5, 7:30 PM

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

Presenter: Jonathan Cepek, Wildlife Ecologist for the Cleveland Metroparks

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.



Photo: Dr. Anne Wiley, Haleakala, Maui by a Hawaiian Petrel burrow.

> Tues, Oct 3, 7:30 PM

Unveiling the Lives of Seabirds Using Stable Isotopes

Presenter: Dr. Anne Wiley, Assistant Professor Department of Biology, University of Akron

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.

Photo, left: Cathy Marquardt shows off her "Rocky River View Scenic Slide", a decorative artwork by Bruce Buchanan, stained glass artist (right). Created in a process of firing hand-painted glass, this timeless illustration of a Lake Erie waterway known to Rocky River Reservation birding enthusiasts is one-of-a-kind. Read this delightful story and order your Scenic Slide at Member News: <https://goo.gl/jhZYrd>

VOLUNTEER SECTION >>>

Lights Out Cleveland and Volunteer Training Reduces Bird and Building Collisions

By Harvey B. Webster, Director of Wildlife Resources, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

There are many significant developments in the Lights Out (<http://ohiolightsout.org>) relaunch. We had launched Smart Light/Safe Flight some years back and coordinated with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative's Ohio Lights Out program. Response from building owners was tepid at best. Forest City cooperated with the Terminal Tower, the Fifth Third Bank joined in but there was seemed to be a reluctance on the part of building owners to change from their status quo.

This last winter, representatives from the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI), Lake Erie Nature & Science Center (LENSC), the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Metroparks, Akron Zoo and National Audubon met to see how we could revive the program. First we discussed the name and agreed to rebrand the program "Lights Out Cleveland" or "Lights Out CLE" to better align with state and national efforts.

Then we all agreed that a robust monitoring program was necessary to document the impact of lit buildings on the migration through Cleveland. The information gathered from this program could be used to convince building owners that the threat is real and action required.

- ❖ Want to help? Register for Lights Out Volunteer Training Sessions in fieldwork data collection, endorse social media campaigns, and educate building owners about lights out at <http://ohiolightsout.org/about/>

Tim Jasinski, Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist, and the team at LENS C took the lead and organized a stunningly successful program that rescued and rehabilitated injured birds and salvaged the dead. All of the work graphically illustrated the impact. Next steps are to continue monitoring during the fall migration, host a summit for building owners and managers to encourage their active and enthusiastic participation in Lights Out Cleveland, and publicize the program.



Lights Out seasons are Mar 15 - Jun 1 in the spring, and Aug 15 - Oct 31 in the fall. Above (left to right): American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) by Amanda Duren; Earth at Night by NASA; Birds in Recovery at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center and Tim Jasinski with Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) by Jim Jasinski.

Volunteer Opportunities We're looking for creatives, network builders, and advocates for nature. Interested? Contact info@wcaudubon.org. Follow new opportunities as they're posted at VolunteerMatch <https://goo.gl/BAacrt>

- ❖ Backyard Biodiversity Bash, Watershed Stewardship Center, West Creek Reservation, 2277 W Ridgewood Dr, Parma, OH, Noon to 4:00 PM, Sat Aug 26, 2017. Volunteer for exhibit staffing 11 AM (for arrival and set up) to 4:30 PM (for teardown), and to assist participants at 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM Bird Walks.
- ❖ Exhibit staffing at WCAS 2017-2018 Speaker Series commencing Tue Sept 5, 2017 & other public events.

NEWS >>>



Photo: Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) by Laura Gooch.

Cool Off and Refresh with Iced Coffee

Prep Time: 8 Hours **Difficulty:** Easy **Servings:** 24

Ingredients:

1 bag (12 oz) Birds & Beans® Scarlet Tanager French Roast (or *your* favorite blend), ground
8 quarts Cold Water (good spring water's best)
Half-and-Half (healthy Splash Per Serving)
Brown Sugar (2-3 Tablespoons Per Serving)

Preparation Instructions:

In a large container, mix ground coffee with water. Cover and allow to sit at room temperature eight hours or overnight. Line a fine mesh strainer with cheesecloth and set over a pitcher or container. Pour coffee/water mixture through the strainer, allowing all liquid to run through. Discard grounds. Place coffee liquid in the fridge and allow to cool. Use as needed.

To make iced coffee, pack a glass full of ice cubes - best made from your last iced coffee. Fill glass 2/3 full with coffee liquid. Add healthy splash of Half-and-Half. Add 2-3 tablespoons of sugar and stir to combine. Taste and adjust half-and-half and/or sugar as needed.

To Purchase Shade-Grown Coffee - Purchase Birds & Beans®, Smithsonian Bird Friendly®, USDA Organic, Fair-Trade Certified Coffee online at <https://goo.gl/HcbbBi> or contact SuzanneAldrich@WCAudubon.org at (440) 465-6612. Place orders by the 10th of every month.

Mark Your Calendars!

Event: 4th Annual Backyard Biodiversity Bash

Date & Time: Sat Aug 26, 2017, Noon to 4:00pm

Location: Watershed Stewardship Ctr, West Creek

Reservation: 2277 West Ridgewood Dr, Parma, OH

Tickets: It's FREE and fun for all ages. Visit the WCAS booth, go on a Bird Walk and buy Shade-Grown Coffee!

Invitation & Bird Walk registration: <https://goo.gl/XbvzUV>

Event: Regional Audubon Meeting Open to Ohio Chapters

Date: Sat Nov 18 & Sun Nov 19, 2017 (*tentative*)

Location: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH

Website: www.wcaudubon.org/news

Event: Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle 2017

Date & Time: Sat Dec 30, 2017 All Day

Location: Lakewood Circle Map <https://flic.kr/p/DabBrR>

To participate, contact NancyHowell@wcaudubon.org (216) 231-4600 x 3225

Check for updates at: facebook.com/WCAudubon

The Western Cuyahoga Audubon Chapter Newsletter is published four times per year in February, May, August and November.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon programs are free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated. Consult the calendar for dates www.wcaudubon.org/calendar

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

Visit our Store to download reports, articles, purchase coffee, renew membership, and make donations. www.wcaudubon.org/store

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Regional Leadership Meeting Open to Audubon Chapters in Ohio

Plans are being made for a Northern Ohio regional leadership meeting Sat., Nov. 18 and Sun., Nov. 19, 2017 at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, Bay Village, OH. Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, Great Lakes Regional Office, and convened by WCAS to connect Audubon Chapters, Bird Clubs, partners, and the public. Attendees will present new information, address common issues, and share success stories. For updates subscribe to eNews wcaudubon.org/newsletter-sign-up.html and add your Like to facebook.com/WCAudubon.

Annual Membership Drive August 1 - October 31, 2017

Now's the time join Western Cuyahoga Audubon, a chapter of the National Audubon Society! Become part of a local network of like-minded bird and conservation advocates. Member benefits include: one year of quarterly Newsletters, a classic window cling, a Member name tag, latest birding schedules, access to 'LAKE ERIE LEGENDS' stories, and volunteer opportunities that connect you to nature. Mail in the Member Letter (see insert) or join online at: wcaudubon.org/become-a-member. Everyone is welcome!

Western Cuyahoga Audubon is the grateful recipient of a **KeyCorp Matching Gift** funded by the **KeyBank Foundation**. Thank you!



Shop today at AmazonSmile and designate Western Cuyahoga Audubon as your charitable organization of choice. When customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by the customer.

