



# THE FEATHERED FLYER

## Nov 2017 - Jan 2018

Bird Walks & Field Trips.....	2
Maps and Directions.....	4
Speaker Series....	5
Volunteer Section	6
News.....	7

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#### WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4310 Bush Ave.  
 Cleveland, OH 44109  
 > (216) 741-2352  
 > [info@wcaudubon.org](mailto:info@wcaudubon.org)  
 > [www.wcaudubon.org](http://www.wcaudubon.org)

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## It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas Bird Count Season!

By Nancy Howell, Compiler for the Lakewood Circle Christmas Bird Count

*"The 118th Christmas Bird Count is more than a birdwalk, it is Citizen Science."*

As this is being written, leaves, rather than snow, are falling. Before long we will be in the midst of Christmas Bird Count season with the Lakewood (west side) Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by Western Cuyahoga Audubon, taking place on **Saturday, December 30, 2017**. Not familiar with Christmas Bird Counts? Explore our Audubon Christmas Bird Count Lakewood Circle reports at our Scribd library at <https://goo.gl/APBzat> to learn more.

On this day and this day only, groups or individuals go out part or all of the day to cover the Circle areas. Any park or green space and even walk around neighborhoods are fair game. A list of areas that are covered or need coverage are listed in News blog announcement, "118th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle 2017" at [goo.gl/ydJp94](http://goo.gl/ydJp94)

The Christmas Bird Count is more than a tally of species or out having fun with others in a group while birding. Certainly the Count should be fun and a great time to socialize, but realize that the information that is gleaned is useful data. A recent scan through the list of scientific publications that are about Christmas Bird Counts or specific research about birds with data from Counts is long.

Population trends, such as the growth of the House Finch population, gulls on Lake Erie, eruptive species and more. In addition, The Ohio Cardinal, a publication of the Ohio Ornithological Society, and the Cleveland Bird Calendar from the Kirtland Bird Club, both publish Christmas Bird Count data from Ohio counts.

The data collected may answer questions, such as, have woodpecker populations increased due to the number of dead ash trees? Questions on West Nile Virus and its effect on American Crow and Blue Jay populations, or are we truly seeing greater numbers of certain bird species that have been rare in the past due to warmer winters? So the 118th Christmas Bird Count is more than a birdwalk, it is Citizen Science.



Photo: Bank Corner by Alice Merkel at Rocky River Reservation, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070.

*(It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas Bird Count Season! continued from Pg. 1)*

As the compiler for the Lakewood Circle, everyone's participation is appreciated; from tallying numbers at feeders, to birding through whatever weather comes that day. Those participating in the past have done a wonderful job but we can always use more participants. Every bird sighting is important and we want and need you and the results of your efforts. Please sign up to assist. Call on friends and family. Stop for some coffee or hot chocolate and make a morning of it. I hope you can contribute to a great event. Please contact me, Nancy Howell at [NancyHowell@wcaudubon.org](mailto:NancyHowell@wcaudubon.org) or call me at 440-891-1710. Thank you - the birds appreciate it!

# # # # # # #

Visit the new **Western Cuyahoga Audubon Policy Blog** located just beneath the **Conserve** tab at our website. We'll be publishing news and information pertaining to policy issues affecting birds and habitat conservation. Topics include feral and roaming cats, wind power, night light building awareness, and bird migration. We'll be asking for your signatures and endorsements of position statements, letters of acknowledgement, and petitions for legislation.

## BIRD WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS >>>



Photos (left to right): November Second Saturday Birders, Bradstreet Gulls and Icy Pond by Penny O'Connor; River Walker by Alice Merkel.

### Second Saturday Bird Walks at Rocky River Nature Center

UPCOMING DATES: Nov 11, 2017 / Dec 9, 2017 / Jan 13, 2018

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.

> Sunday, Nov 19, 9:00 AM

## WCAS and KBC Field Trip to Bradstreet's Landing

Date & Time: Sun Nov 19, 2017 at 9:00am

Location: Bradstreet's Landing, 22400 Lake Rd, Rocky River, OH 44116

Target species: Waterfowl, Cave Swallows

Leader: Various

Bradstreet's Landing in Rocky River, Ohio offers easily accessible views of Lake Erie waterfowl. Grebes, loons, scaup, scoters have been seen here, as well as Cave Swallows. Depending on local sightings, we will either stay at Bradstreet's landing, or move to other nearby Lake Erie hotspots.



Photo: Franklin's gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) by Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.

Saturday, December 30, all day >

## 118th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle 2017

Date & Time: Saturday, December 30, 2017 All Day

Place: Lakewood, Ohio vicinity and Rocky River Reservation trails, or "Lakewood Circle"

Targeted Species: Winter Residents

Compiler: Nancy Howell

"Lakewood" count circle includes western areas of Cuyahoga County, from Lake Erie south into Berea and Olmsted Falls, and Lakewood and Cleveland Zoo too. (See related story page 1 and map page 4.)



Photo: Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) by S. Bern (Wikipedia)

> Saturday, January 20, 9:00 AM

## Field Trip to Lorain Harbor, with Black River Audubon

Date & Time: Sat Jan 20, 2017 at 9:00am

Location: Jackalope Lakeside, 301 Lakeside Ave, Lorain, OH 44052

Leader: Tammy Martin

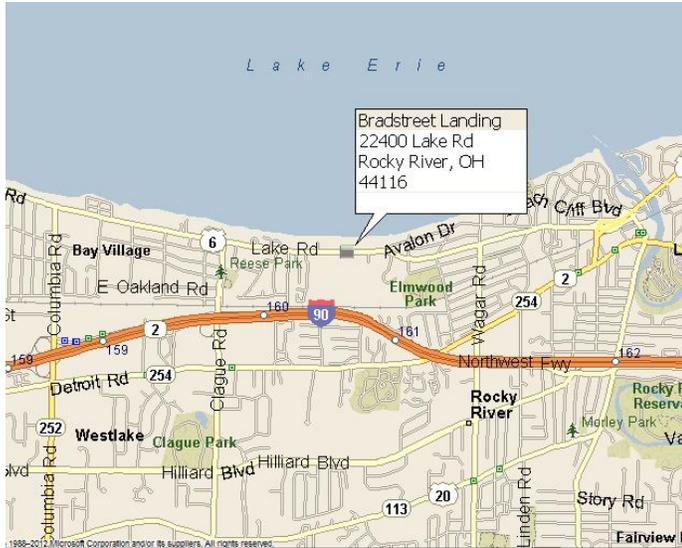
Target Species: Snow Buntings, Waterfowl, Winter Residents

Lorain Harbor and Lorain Impoundment are great spots for winter birding. We will bird there first, then possibly move to other spots depending on reported sightings. We will bird with Black River Audubon Society. Meet by Jackalope Restaurant. (See Field Trip driving directions next page...)



Photo: American tree sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*) by Arad Mojtahedi (Wikipedia)

# MAPS AND DIRECTIONS >>>



## BRADSTREET'S LANDING

Directions: Bradstreet's Landing is at 22400 Lake Road, Rocky River, OH. Exit I-90 at Columbia Rd. Go north on Columbia a short distance to Sperry Rd. Turn right (east) on Sperry Rd. to Clague Rd. Go left (north) on Clague Rd. Follow Clague north to Lake Rd. Or, if you prefer, when you exit at Columbia, go north toward Lake Rd. Turn right (east) on Lake Rd.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The "Lakewood" count circle includes western areas of Cuyahoga County, from Lake Erie south into Berea and Olmsted Falls, Lakewood, and the Cleveland Zoo too. Birding is in and around the Lakewood, Ohio vicinity and Rocky River Reservation trails from the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070.

## LORAIN HARBOR AND LORAIN IMPOUNDMENT (map, left)



Directions: Take I-90 to exit 151 for Route 611 towards Sheffield/Avon. Go NORTH on 611. You'll pass gas stations immediately on the left and a McDonald's on the right. Continue on Route 611/Colorado Avenue for 6 miles. At one point, Route 611 will bend to the left (south). There is a Wendy's on this corner. CONTINUE STRAIGHT through the light (Colorado Avenue now). Go over railroad tracks. Not far after, you will dead end at Route 6/Lake Road. Continue straight through this light. Colorado immediately takes a hard left turn and turns into Lakeside Avenue. Hang left at this turn then immediately turn RIGHT into the Spitzer/Lakeside area. You'll see the restaurant and Spitzer/Lakeside building on your left and the impoundment ahead. Note the Lorain Impoundment is between Lake Erie and the big parking lot behind Jackalope.

# 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. View the entire 2017-18 Speaker Series at <https://goo.gl/ZSRy8F>



Above (left to right): Jennifer Allison, David Lewis, and Carol Thaler. Photos courtesy of the speakers.

> *Tues, Nov 7, 7:30 PM*

## Killer Whales of South Central Alaska

**Presenter: Jennifer Allison**

South Central 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. Jennifer shares photos and discusses whale identification, difficulties for killer whales since the Exxon Valdez oil spill, plus new research information gathered this season.

> *Tues, Dec 5, 7:30 PM*

## Birding in Snow

**Presenter: David Lewis, Photographer and Birder**

Winter weather in northeast Ohio may be frightful at times, but our native birds are adapted to deal with it. It may be hard to believe how Golden-crowned Kinglets or Black-capped Chickadees, sprites of the bird world, survive our winters as the snow flies and temperatures dip. Dave Lewis shares photographs of local birds in the winter. *(Continued...)*

The **Annual Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction** starts at 6:30 PM and the speaker program at 7:30 PM.

For the silent auction, please bring gently-used or new nature themed items. Bring a few bucks and take home some treasures for yourself or for holiday gifts. For the potluck, bring a tasty appetizer, side dish or dessert to share. WCAS provides beverages, bird-friendly shade-grown coffee, ham and turkey.

> *Tues, Jan 2, 7:30 PM*

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

**Presenter: Carol Thaler, Director of Outreach and Administration, Great Lakes Biomimicry**

“Thinking of nature as a teacher rather than a warehouse is a powerful act.” Janine Benyus has sparked people to learn about biomimicry or innovation inspired by nature in Northeast Ohio and around the world. Nature, through its 3.8 billion year history of Research and Development, has evolved solutions to many of the problems that humans try to solve. By emulating nature’s time-tested patterns and strategies, we can innovate to create sustainable solutions. This presentation introduces biomimicry basics, examples, and solutions.

# VOLUNTEER SECTION >>>



Above: Volunteers Terry Gorges and Tim Colborn, photo by Betsey Merkel. Birds sited on the Backyard Biodiversity Bash Bird Walks: Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), and American goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) via Wikipedia.

## Thank You Western Cuyahoga Audubon Members and Volunteers

Thank you Second Saturday and Field Trip leaders **Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper and Bill Deininger, Justin Woldt, Tim Jasinski, Ken and Helen Ostermiller.** Thanks to Backyard Biodiversity Bash, August 26 volunteers **Betsey Merkel, Janet Bennett, Joanne and Terry Gorges, and Len Zimmer** for greeting visitors with conservation education materials, recruiting subscribers, and promoting Chapter programs. A special thanks to Bird Walk leader **Tim Colborn** and to **Cleveland Metroparks** staff and volunteers for providing support services, healthy snacks, and extra binoculars for our guest birders!

## Volunteer Opportunities!

Do you care about birds and habitat conservation? Do you enjoy public outreach and engagement? Or, maybe you're a citizen scientist dedicated to our planet Earth? If so, we're looking for volunteers like you! Interested? Send us an email at [info@wcaudubon.org](mailto:info@wcaudubon.org). Check out the list below and more at VolunteerMatch <https://goo.gl/BAact>

- **Speaker Program, Annual Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction** - On Dec 5, 2017 activities start at 6:30 PM and the speaker program at 7:30 PM. Volunteers are needed at 5:30 PM.
- **Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle 2017 and Volunteer 'Thank You' Dinner** is Sat Dec 30, 2017 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070. Volunteers are needed at least 2 weeks before the CBC date to update the public listing of people's names and areas covered, as well as on Count Day itself. To help in the evening, please arrive at 5:00 PM. To volunteer for any part of the day, send an email to [NancyHowell@wcaudubon.org](mailto:NancyHowell@wcaudubon.org)
- **Meet and Greet Visitors and Staff the Chapter Exhibit Display** - WCAS hosts an informational exhibit and distributes educational materials at events and monthly Member meetings Sept through May. Help us grow public engagement as a volunteer staffer advocating for birds and habitat conservation. Join us!

## Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to Marge Bartick, Janet Bennett, Susan and Brian Bohne, Ed and Sharon Campbell, John and Janet Czar, Marilyn Doerr, Michael Edgington, Linda Ellis, Roberta Ewaska and Michelle Lindsey, Margaret Glenn, Anne Hill, Sharon Kanareff, Andy Killian, Fran Lakey, Sarah Morgenstein, Jane Mueller, Lillian Nawalanic, Sharon Oberst, Jay and Jean Rounds, and Jack Sidor.

# NEWS >>>



Photo: Ovenbird (*Seiurus*), Cleveland, OH by Janice Soos Farral.

## Lights Out Ohio Updates-Fall 2017 By Matthew Shumar, Program Coordinator for the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI)

Many species of birds migrate at night, guided in part by starfields and lunar paths. Unfortunately, bright lighting in urban centers can disrupt these cues causing fatal collisions with buildings, and it is estimated that between 365 and 988 million birds are killed by collisions each year in the United States (Loss et al. 2014). With support from a wide range of partners, the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative has created a statewide network to help address this threat to migratory bird populations.

Cleveland and surrounding areas south of Lake Erie likely present additional challenges, as they comprise a unique and globally important region for migratory stopover. This spring and fall, OBCI, the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Metroparks, and a flock of dedicated volunteers canvassed downtown Cleveland during early mornings to search for injured birds. To date, more than 850 birds have been recovered with just over 300 successfully rehabilitated and released.

Volunteers are also collecting important information associated with each recovered bird at the site of detection, including weather, *(Continued next column...)*

time and date, precise location, aspect of building, building surface, as well as species, age, and sex of each bird. We hope that this effort will elucidate additional factors related to building collisions.

The ultimate goal of Lights Out Cleveland—and the other efforts under Ohio Lights Out—is to reduce the number of bird-building collisions. Buildings enrolled in the program are eliminating or reducing their lighting during migration and helping us to get others involved. If you are interested in enrolling a building in Lights Out or volunteering visit [ohiolightsout.org](http://ohiolightsout.org) or contact Matthew Shumar at [obcicoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:obcicoordinator@gmail.com).

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Event: 11th Annual Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) Conf**  
**Date & Time: Sat Nov 4, 2017**  
**Location: Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, 1000 Aullwood Rd, Dayton, OH 45414**

**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](http://www.wcaudubon.org/calendar)

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 Western Cuyahoga Audubon is currently Board run.

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 Penny O'Connor

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 Suzanne Aldrich

**Directors-at-Large**  
 Mary Anne Romito  
 Tim Colborn

**Newsletter Editor**  
 Kurt Miske  
**Webmaster**  
 Betsey Merkel

## Making a Better Future for Audubon Chapters in Ohio

Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC). Ever hear of it? It's a real organization and it's alive again. It's mission is to share best practices among Ohio chapters through workshops. WCAS members initiated a workshop in Parma, Ohio on Oct. 1, 2017. Six chapters attended and we got a lot accomplished! During the meeting we discussed programming, projects, and ways to gain support for them. The next workshop will be hosted by the Firelands Audubon Society in March 2018, and will discuss membership involvement and fundraising. To participate or for more information, email [info@wcaudubon.org](mailto:info@wcaudubon.org)

## Bird-Friendly Coffee: Did You Know?

By the time you drink your next cup of conventional coffee, acres of tropical forest will be lost. This includes the birds and wildlife that depend on it. Bird Friendly coffee plantations play a key role in the conservation of our global environment and provide sanctuary for migratory birds. **How can you help?** Take the challenge! Order a Bird Friendly coffee today and try it for one month. For just a few dollars more a bag, you'll be preserving bird habitat, supporting conservation efforts, sustainable farming and drinking "good" coffee. **Purchase Coffee** online at <https://goo.gl/HcbbBi> or contact [SuzanneAldrich@wcaudubon.org](mailto:SuzanneAldrich@wcaudubon.org) at (440) 465-6612. Place orders by the 10th of every month.



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