



Nov 2018 - Jan 2019

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> CONNECT

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THE YEAR OF THE BIRD - CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2018

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

"Groups or individuals may be out early in the morning, some a little later. Some individuals go "owling" in the pre-dawn hours or later that evening. All species as well as individual birds are recorded, including House Sparrows, Rock Doves and European Starlings. Some groups and individuals walk in areas, others drive from spot to spot."

2018 was deemed The Year of the Bird by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, National Geographic and BirdLife International. Western Cuyahoga Audubon has been doing something for the birds throughout the year; programs, bird walks, blogs, field trips, sending data via eBird, and much more. Does the year's end mean the end of The Year of the Bird? We hope not since birds are a barometer for the health of the environment and need to be monitored. Western Cuyahoga Audubon will always continue to celebrate birds no matter what year it is. Let's celebrate birds that are here in the winter by participating in the Lakewood Circle Christmas Bird Count.

The Western Cuyahoga Audubon sponsored Christmas Bird Count will take place on **Saturday, December 29**. For those unfamiliar with what a Christmas Bird Count is, it is the longest running "citizen science" project with over 100 years of data. "Citizen scientists" from all walks of life, you, me, your family and friends, gather data about the birds found in our area in the latter part of the year. The information collected goes into the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's database and provides researchers a glimpse of bird species that are around at the end of December. Each year is different but when data over many years is analyzed trends begin to appear.

The Lakewood Circle takes in much of the western lakefront, through parts of 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 *(Continued on page 2...)*

Join us for **WCAS Giving Day**, Tue, Nov 6, 2018 at 7:30 PM for **"Conservation Stories of Western Cuyahoga Audubon"** at the Rocky River Nature Center. An evening of legendary member stories and participatory idea stations to generate next-gen conservation projects supported by the WCAS Giving Day Fund. See details pg. 6.



Photo: CBC-Lakewood Circle 2017-Lakewood Park by Kathy Murphy. Left to right: Jeff Kraus, Tom Sendry, Sue and Lee Cavano.

(Continued...) Brooklyn and some of Parma Hts. The Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle Map 2018 shows locations that need coverage <http://bit.ly/2IR3kJV>. People can ALWAYS walk around neighborhoods, small parks, cemeteries, drive from spot to spot, and any other place to count birds or tally the birds at your feeder ... as long as it is within the Count Circle. Groups or individuals may be out early in the morning, some a little later. Friends may go "owling" in the pre-dawn hours or later that evening. All species as well as individual birds are recorded, including House Sparrows, Rock Doves and European Starlings. It's great to get as much of our Count Circle covered as possible and tally the species present. Everyone's participation is appreciated through whatever weather comes that day.

We need your results! Call on friends and family! Sign up to assist and contribute to this GREAT event. At the end of the day participants gather for a catered dinner as a "thank you" for the hard work and we begin to tally the species sighted. Please contact me, Nancy Howell at nancyhowell@wcaudubon.org or contact me at 440-891-1710 (home) or 440-655-5926 (cell/text). Thank you - Let's hear it for The Year of the Bird ... and beyond!

BIRD WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS >>>



Photos (left to right): November Birders, Yellow West Channel, and Ice Patterns by Penny O'Connor. Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area, Quebec, Canada, CC BY-SA 3.0 from Wikimedia Commons.

Second Saturday Bird Walks at Rocky River Nature Center

UPCOMING DATES: Nov 10, 2018 / Dec 8, 2018 / Jan 12, 2019

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 and are provided at no charge to the public.

> Sat, Nov 17, 7:00 AM

Hotspot Field Trip-Waterfowl

Date & Time: Sat, Nov 17, 2018 at 7:00am-11:30am

Meet Up Location: North Olmsted RTA Park and Ride, 5575 Great Northern Blvd, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Leaders: Tim Colborn

Target Species: Waterfowl

Description: A good date for maximizing migrant, resident and wintering waterfowl including geese, swans, dabbling ducks and divers.

> Sun, Nov 18, 9:00 AM

Field Trip to Bradstreet's Landing Park

Date & Time: Sun, Nov 18, 2018 at 9:00am

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

Leaders: Rich and Karen Kassouf

Target Species: Waterfowl, Cave Swallows

Description: Bradstreet's Landing in Rocky River, Ohio offers easily accessible views of Lake Erie waterfowl.

> Sat, Dec 30, All Day

119th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle 2018

Date & Time: Sat, Dec 29, 2018, All Day

Place: Lakewood Circle

Targeted Species: Winter Residents

Compiler: Nancy Howell

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

> Sat, Jan 26, 8:00 AM

Hotspot Field Trip-Gulls & Wintering Birds

Date & Time: Sat, Jan 26, 2019 at 8:00am-11:30am

Meet Up Location: North Olmsted RTA Park and Ride, 5575 Great Northern Blvd, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Leaders: Tim Colborn

Target Species: Gulls and Wintering Birds

Description: A terrific month to find common and rarer gull species, wintering ducks, grebes, loons, and raptors.



Photo: Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) by Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.

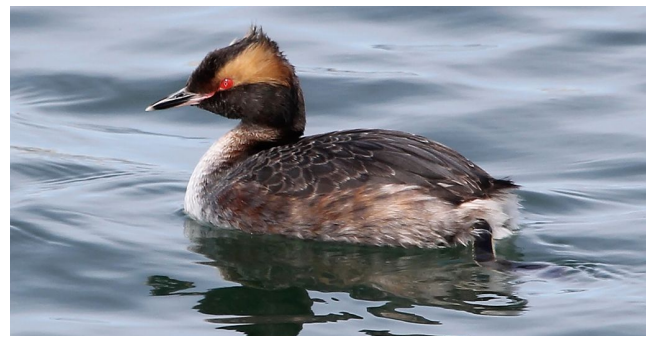


Photo: Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) at Edgewater Park, Cleveland, Ohio by Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.

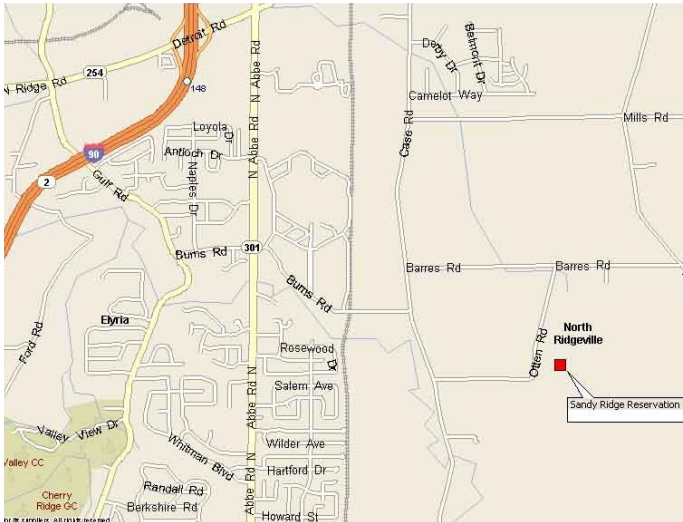


Photo: Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) by David Lewis.



Photo: Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) by Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.

MAPS AND DIRECTIONS >>>



SANDY RIDGE RESERVATION-POSSIBLE NOVEMBER HOTSPOT FIELD TRIP

Directions: From the Greater Cleveland area, take I-90 to the Rt. 254 exit, left on Rt. 254 to Rt. 301, right on Rt. 301 past Lorain Community College, left on Burns Rd., right on Case Rd., left on Otten Rd. to Sandy Ridge. Or take I-480 to Clague Road, turn right or north on Clague to Center Ridge Road (Rt the Rt. 20), turn left or west on Center Ridge to Case Rd., turn right on Case Rd., right on Otten Rd. to Sandy Ridge.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT-LAKEWOOD CIRCLE 2018

#1 Event: CBC-Lakewood Circle 2018 Bird Count

Date & Time: Sat, Dec 29, 2018 All Day

Place: Lakewood, Ohio vicinity and Rocky River Reservation trails, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Targeted Species: Winter Residents

Compiler: Nancy Howell

Map: Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle Map 2018 locations <http://bit.ly/2IR3kVJ>

#2 Event: CBC Volunteer "Thank You" Dinner

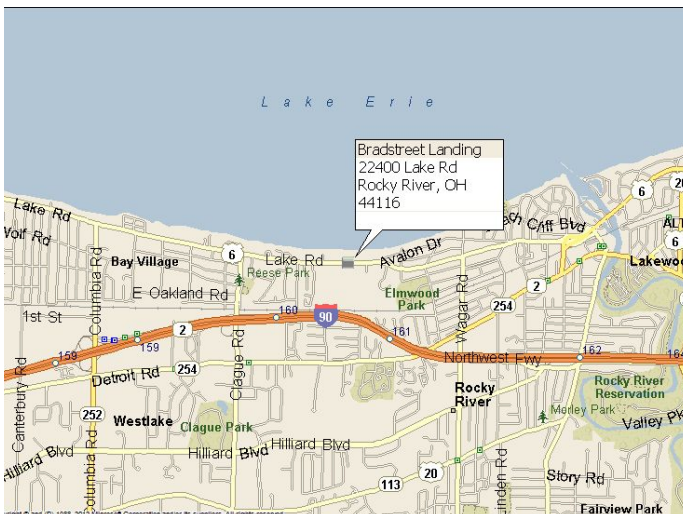
Date & Time: Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Description: The Christmas Bird Count is free, but if you'd like make a donation to National Audubon Society to help in compiling count information, at our "thank you" dinner. A catered dinner is held at the Rocky River Nature Center at 6:00 p.m. Saturday where we tally species and initial numbers. Questions? Contact Nancy Howell at 440-891-1710 (home) or 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 (work) or email Nancy for more information, to sign up for an area, or for further information about the "thank you" dinner.

BRADSTREET'S LANDING PARK (left)

Directions: Bradstreet's Landing Park is located at 22400 Lake Road, Rocky River, OH 44116.



MEMBERSHIP, FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEERS >>>

Welcome New Members!

Welcoming new members Michelle Brosius, Lisa Del Rio, Kaoru Tsubone, and Wendy Weirich! Become a valued member and renew membership today at <https://www.wcaudubon.org/membership.html>

Introducing Volunteer Kaoru Tsubone



Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) welcomes volunteer Kaoru Tsubone! (photo, left). Kaoru talks about her passion for volunteering for birds and nature, below.

1. What is it you do and what is your volunteer activity called? I volunteer for several positions at Western Cuyahoga Audubon. As **Volunteer Field Trip Coordinator**, I give birders a warm welcome at bird walks and field trips, encourage participants to join the chapter email roster, and to become a member. In addition, I hand out educational materials and direct people to the WCAS website and social media. The second position is to **Staff the Chapter Exhibit** at programs and public events, set up the chapter's exhibit table and floor banner, and coordinate donations and ticket sales. Lastly, as a **WCAS Board Member**, I attend WCAS board meetings to report on activities, make suggestions, and just be part of a *great* group!

2. How did you get interested in birds and nature? I hadn't done birding by the time I came to the U.S. February of 2017. One day while I was walking around my neighborhood, a bird caught my eye. A male Cardinal suddenly flew across in front of me and perched on a dead tree. I know it's one of the more common birds here, but I was impressed to see how beautiful this red bird actually was. Since then I've joined birding programs, and I love birds and nature more and more.

3. Why is volunteering important to you? I had been a volunteer baton twirling instructor for about 15 years. Through this activity, I recognized that I love to connect to people and get involved in a community. As a part of my life, I want to keep volunteering even if I am in a foreign country. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society gave me a great chance to do that, and I appreciate the many people who are always encouraging me!

Sponsor-A-Speaker Opportunities at Western Cuyahoga Audubon Speaker Series

A \$100 gift is all it takes to sponsor a Western Cuyahoga Audubon speaker series program! Sponsors are needed for: November, "Conservation Stories of Western Cuyahoga Audubon"; December, "To the Edge of the Earth: Nome, Barrow, and Bering Sea Islands"; January, "Chimney Swifts: Our Amazing & Imperiled Avian Insectivores"; February, "One Green Space for All: Areas Significant for Migratory and Breeding Birds"; March, "The Life and Times of the American Woodcock"; and in May, "Peregrine Falcons: Predators of Urban Canyons". THANK YOU Kathleen Tiburzi for sponsoring the October program, "Careless Whispers? Deciphering the Hidden Vocal Repertoire of a Common Backyard Bird, the Dark-eyed Junco". The April 2019 program, "Warbler Warm-up", is sponsored by an anonymous donor. Email info@wcaudubon.org for details!

Thank You, Volunteers!

THANK YOU leaders Erik Bruder, Tim Colborn, Bill Deininger, Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper, Mary Anne Romito, Nancy Howell, and Tim Jasinski for your scientific excellence. THANK YOU photographers Anna Julnes, Chuck Slusarczyk Jr., David Lewis, Deb Sweeney, Kaoru Tsubone, Kathy Murphy, Kurt Brocone, Paul Carey, Penny O'Connor, Ray Burns, Sherrie DiFrancesco, and Tom Fishburn for your digital creativity that never ceases to inspire!

PROGRAMS >>>

Western Cuyahoga Audubon programs are free and open to the public. Monthly programs are held the first Tuesday of each month, September through May, at the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070. Guests are invited to learn about the Audubon mission. Map: www.wcaudubon.org/rocky-river-reservation



Photo: Rocky River by Tom Fishburn.

> Tues, Nov 6, 7:30 PM

Conservation Stories of Western Cuyahoga Audubon

Presenters: WCAS Members, Affiliates, and Friends

Date: Tue, Nov 6, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Description: Western Cuyahoga Audubon has played an active role in Cleveland habitat conservation from reclaiming the city's Donald Gray Gardens, a gem of the 1936 and 1937 World Fair, to pioneering the formation of the Rocky River Important Bird Area, an iconic northeast Ohio conserved property. Join us for an evening of legendary conservation stories and participatory idea stations to catalyze next generation conservation projects. Support **WCAS Giving Day** and it's mission to fund conservation activities. Additional information and giving at <http://bit.ly/2QKMZZX>



Photo: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by Steven Chase, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons.

> Tues, Dec 4, 7:30 PM

To the Edge of the Earth: Nome, Barrow, and Bering Sea Islands

Presenter: Craig Caldwell, Editor, *The Ohio Cardinal*

Date: Tue, Dec 4, 2018. Potluck dinner at 6:30 PM, Program begins at 7:30 PM

Description: The vastness and beauty of the Arctic and its inhabitants, wildlife and people, is presented by Craig Caldwell, Audubon supporter and Editor of *The Ohio Cardinal*, a publication of the Ohio Ornithological Society. We'll visit the scenery and birds of Nome, Barrow, and Bering Sea communities of Adak, St. Paul, and Gambell.



Photo: Chimney Swift overhead by Jim McCulloch.

> Tues, Jan 8, 7:30 PM

Chimney Swifts: Our Amazing & Imperiled Avian Insectivores

Presenter: Judy Semroc, Conservation Specialist, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Date: Tue, Jan 8, 2019 (due to the New Year's holiday) at 7:30 PM

Description: Aerial insectivores, birds that catch insects on the wing, such as the Chimney Swift are declining. This program presents it's history, habits, and reasons for decline of the swift, the amazing flying "cigar!" and the importance of creating swift towers to help this species.

NEWS >>>



Meet a Bird Friendly Coffee Drinker - Liz McQuaid

Q: What inspired you to purchase Bird Friendly Coffee?

A: *I like the idea that coffee can be grown in areas where our migrants winter, and other birds homes have not been taken away.*

Q: What do you like the most about it?

A: *I really like the flavor. I make a cup or two every morning.*

Q: How do you brew it?

A: *I have a Brew & Go coffee maker, which only makes one cup. I use the reusable filter and clean it after every cup.*

Q: What is your favorite blend?

A: *I like the Scarlet Tanager. It is bold and rich. I use a little chocolate in it also to make my own version of Mocha.*

Gift Giving is for the Birds!

Visit our Store online at <http://bit.ly/2Ry1Nwi> to order delicious bird friendly coffee for the holidays! Or, send an email to SuzanneAldrich@WCAudubon.org by December 10th with the # of bags, size, grind, and blend to receive your order by mid-December.

Mark Your Calendars!

Event: "Conservation Stories of Western Cuyahoga Audubon"

Date: Tue Nov 6, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Location: Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Event: Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) Wksp

Date: Sun Dec 2, 2018

Chapter Host & Location: TBA

Event: 119th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle 2018

Date: Sat, Dec 29, 2018

Website: <http://bit.ly/2QycT3a>

Event: 2018 Winter Raptor Extravaganza

Host: Ohio Ornithological Society

Date: Sat, Jan 19, 2019

Location: The Wilds, 14000 International Rd, Cumberland, OH 43732.

Register: Jason Larson, bairdstrogon@yahoo.com

Event: Great Backyard Bird Count

Date: Feb 16 - 19, 2019

National Audubon: <http://bit.ly/2OKOvjD>

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.

Email: info@wcaudubon.org

Ph: + 216-741-2352

Web: www.wcaudubon.org

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

Visit the Store to download reports, articles, purchase coffee, renew membership, and donate.

<http://bit.ly/2taLgnk>

President

WCAS is currently Board run.

Treasurer

Nancy Howell

Directors-at-Large

Kurt Miske
Mary Anne Romito
Rynette Vall
Tom Romito

Field Trip Coordinators

Erik Bruder
Kaoru Tsubone
Penny O'Connor
Tim Colborn

Bird-Friendly Coffee Coordinator

Suzanne Aldrich

Communications

Betsey Merkel

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Volunteer Positions

Volunteer to do more for birds and habitat conservation! Email info@wcaudubon.org for position details.

Recording Secretary - Become a member of the WCAS Board of Directors with decision-making and voting privileges. Attend monthly meetings to keep detailed meeting minutes. **Volunteer and Public Relations Coordinator** - The Coordinator oversees recruitment, placement, and retention of volunteers and is an advocate for the Audubon mission, WCAS programs and services. Attend Board meetings. Don't miss this rewarding opportunity to engage in meaningful work! **Fundraising Coordinator** - The fundraising coordinator attends Board meetings, plans events, monitors activities, and builds relationships to grow donations and revenue for chapter operations and projects. **Social Gathering Coordinator** - Do you love to create exciting and fun social gatherings? Help us schedule four action-packed events per year for WCAS members, affiliates, and friends. Birds and beer? Boating excursions? Attend monthly Board meetings. Join us!

Become a Member of Western Cuyahoga Audubon! Become a member, renew membership, and make a donation by mailing a check payable to **Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society**. Mail to: Nancy Howell, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Treasurer, 19340 Fowles Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130 or, purchase online at www.wcaudubon.org/membership.html You'll be glad you did and the birds will thank you for it!



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.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
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