THE FEATHERED FLYER

Feb 2019 - Apr 2019

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WCAS Conservation Lab Generates Collaborative Projects

By Kurt Miske, Chair, Conservation Committee

"What is exciting is that we're making progress by creating a system to explore and sanctify projects on an ongoing basis."

Resting on your laurels is only good for so long. A stagnant organization will eventually wither and die. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) routinely has functions that fulfill our mission, and that is wonderful. But routine means not growing and not being exceptional. If you are not growing and/or changing, you are declining.

At WCAS, our last major project was the Rocky River Reservation Important Bird Area (IBA) study, headed by Tom Romito with a cast of many. The WCAS Board of Directors explored 'the next' special project but continually ran into the same constraints – a lack of consensus on what it should be, where we would find the volunteers, and how to fund it.

This resulted in a two-fold endeavor. First, we determined to become more active with social media to expand public knowledge and interest in WCAS and its causes. With that would come new members, volunteers and donations. Good start! But insufficient! Second, we decided to try a different process to determine the next project.

Tom and others conceived the idea for last November's program – a recounting of some past projects and the outcomes. This, in conjunction with social media, we hoped would generate interest in members, sympathizers and even the general public in starting and funding one or more projects. And the ideas for the projects would come from those who might carry them out!

The November meeting was a launching event. Now we needed a way to bring people together and flesh out the next part. The Conservation Project Lab first met the following Saturday at Bethany Presbyterian Church in space generously provided by Pastor Sharon. Attendees were from both the general public and WCAS. Facilitated by Tom, we worked on possible projects that would influence and promote conservation (especially as it relates to birds), attract volunteers and could be self-funded. *(continued on page 2...)*

Photo: Fowles Marsh at Big Creek Reservation, Middleburg Heights, OH by Tom Fishburn.

(...continued from page 1)

Self-funded? Yes, a project that could be promoted to attract sponsors or would somehow pay for itself. But come up with possibilities we did. Nothing concrete or too detailed, but we had fodder for the next meeting.

This second meeting was held in the same location on December 1. Tom again facilitated. New attendees were briefed after introductions were made. We refined our thoughts, decided on what to pursue in general and considered obstacles. We then came up with a subcommittee to further investigate the possibilities, explore how to overcome the obstacles, and to do so on a timeline that would permit us to potentially obtain front money to start the project.

This was very exciting – we were making progress! But even more exciting than making progress towards a specific project was the growing realization that this was about more than just this possible project. We were creating a system to explore and sanctify projects on an ongoing basis.

As I write this, the third meeting will happen at the same location, Bethany Presbyterian Church, 6145 West Clinton Ave., in the Gordon Square Arts District, next Saturday. At that time, we will set the date for meeting #4 and will broadcast that and the results of the third meeting. Read Online

Care to join us? No charge, coffee provided, ideas welcomed. Get updates at wcaudubon.org/newsletter-sign-up

BIRD WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS >>>

Photos (left to right): Watching Blue Jays by Penny O'Connor and West Channel, Passing Friend and Coltsfoot by Kaoru Tsubone.

Second Saturday Bird Walks at Rocky River Nature Center

UPCOMING DATES: Feb 9, 2019 / Mar 9, 2019 / Apr 13, 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.

> Fri, Feb 15 - Mon, Feb 18

The 22nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count-GBBC

Date & Time: Fri, Feb 15, 2019, 12:00 a.m. – Mon, Feb 18, 2019, 4:30 p.m. Visit the official website at birdcount.org.

> Sun, Feb 24, 9:00 AM

Towpath/NEORSD Outflow Area Field Trip

Date & Time: Sun, Feb 24, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
Location: 7201 Canal Rd., Cuyahoga Hts., OH 44125 (use small parking lot by Canal Rd. look for Metroparks sign)
Target Species: Bald Eagle, winter resident birds

Description: Bald Eagles have been sighted recently in this area of the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath. Birds are attracted to the NEORSD Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant's warmer water outflow emptying into the Cuyahoga River. Read Online

> Sun, Mar 31, 8:00 AM

Wellington Upground Reservoir Field Trip

Date & Time: Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.
Location: Wellington Upground Reservoir, Jones Rd., Wellington, OH 44090
Leader: Erik Bruder
Target Species: Migrating Waterfowl

Description: The trip begins at the reservoir with the option of continuing to Wellington Reservation or Findley State Park. The Reservoir offers handicapped parking just feet from the water. Bird a few steps from your car or sitting in the car. Read Online

> Sun, Apr 28, 7:30 AM

Lake Isaac Field Trip

Date & Time: Sun, Apr 28, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Location: Lake Isaac, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
Leaders: Nancy Howell and Rich Kassouf
Target Species: All species we can find in a variety of habitats.

Description: WCAS joins in on the third week of the Audubon Spring Bird Walks, held throughout Northeast Ohio on Sundays, April 14, 21 and 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2019 at many locations. Spring migration is ramping up and Lake Isaac's varied habitats attract a variety of bird species, migrants and residents. Read Online

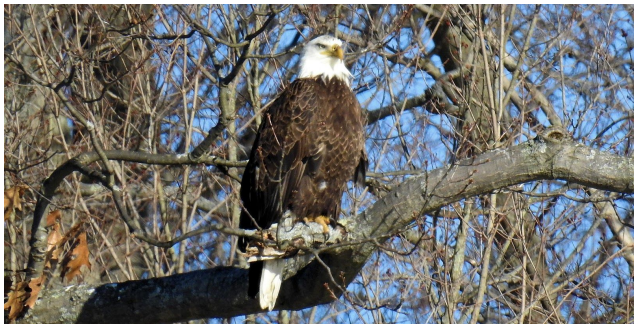


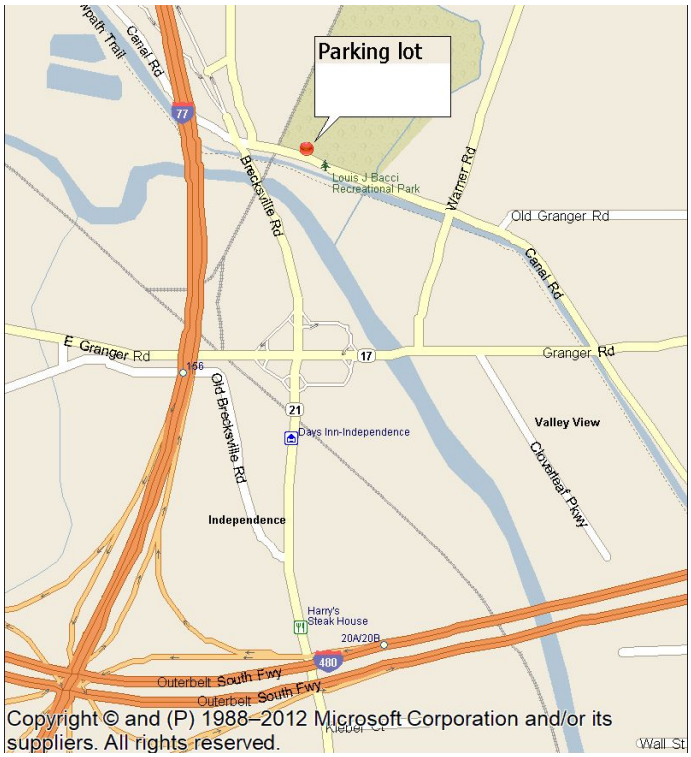
Photo: Bald Eagle at LaDue Reservoir by Anna Julnes, Kirtland Bird Club.

Photo: Osprey hovering near LaDue Reservoir by Anna Julnes, Kirtland Bird Club.

Photo: Ring-necked Ducks swimming near LaDue Reservoir by Anna Julnes, Kirtland Bird Club.

Photo: Sensitive Fern at Lake Isaac Waterfowl Sanctuary by Penny O'Connor.

MAPS AND DIRECTIONS >>>



TOWPATH/NEORSD OUTFLOW AREA

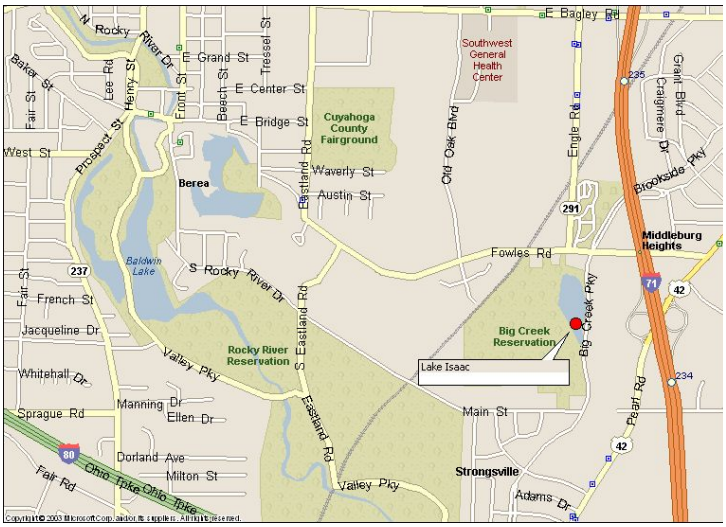
Directions: Via I-77 from north or east, use the Grant Ave. exit. Go west on Grant to East 49th St. Turn left (south) on East 49th St. Follow East 49th St. downhill, past the NEORSD Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant. East 49th St. becomes Canal Rd. Watch for the Towpath Trailhead parking entrance on the left, by the driveway for the Cuyahoga Hts. Service Garage, 7201 Canal Rd. From south or west, take Rockside Rd. to Canal Rd. Turn north on Canal Rd. Follow Canal Rd. to the Towpath Trailhead Parking Area, on the right after passing Warner Rd., address for driveway, 7201 Canal Rd.

LAKE ISAAC *(see map, right)*

Directions: Take 1-71 to the Pearl Rd. (Rt 42) exit (in Middleburg Hts). Turn north on Pearl Rd. (Rt 42). Take Rt 42 to Fowles Rd. Turn left on Fowles Rd. Then turn left on Big Creek Pkwy. The parking lot for Lake Isaac is on the right.

WELLINGTON UPGROUND RESERVOIR

Directions: The reservoir is across the road from the Lorain Metroparks Wellington Reservation, with restrooms and acres of bird habitat. From the Cleveland area take I-480 west. It becomes Route 10. Follow Route 10 west to Route 58. Go south on Route 58. You will pass through the town of Wellington. Just south of town, turn right on Jones Road. Watch for an archway on the right leading to the reservoir. If you reach the Wellington Reservation (on left) you have gone too far. The address of Wellington Reservation is 535 Jones Rd., Wellington, OH 44090.



CBC 2018, FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEERS >>>

[Update: Read the Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle Report 2018] 119th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count Preliminary Report The Lakewood Circle Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 29, 2018 was good in some ways and not so good in others. The good parts were the number of participants covering the Circle, the relatively mild weather and number of species sighted. The not so good was the relatively mild weather and the number of species sighted. Milder weather in December has kept ALL water open so waterbirds either have not moved south into our region or are scattered widely throughout northern Ohio. Count day temperatures held in the mid-lower 30's with overcast skies, not bad for participants, but not concentrating birds. Raptors, particularly Bald Eagles, made a big showing as did fruit eating birds. Ornamental crabapples, honeysuckle and Callery pear trees were loaded with fruits and birds. The list below contains species found in various Lakewood Circle habitats, including 72 species from count day and 3 species from count week. Species in **bold** are rare or unusual sightings, those in ***bold and italicized*** are count week species. Read Online *(Photo by Debra Sweeney.)*

Cackling Goose - count week
1. Canada Goose
2. Wood Duck
3. American Black Duck
4. Mallard
5. Northern Pintail
6. Greater Scaup
7. Lesser Scaup
8. Surf Scoter
9. Bufflehead
10. Common Goldeneye

Hooded Merganser - count week
11. Red-breasted Merganser
12. Wild Turkey
13. Horned Grebe
14. Rock Pigeon
15. Mourning Dove
16. American Coot
17. Ring-billed Gull
18. Herring Gull
19. Great Black-backed Gull
20. Bonaparte's Gull
21. Common Loon
22. Great Blue Heron
23. **Turkey Vulture**
24. Bald Eagle
25. Northern Harrier
26. Sharp-shinned Hawk
27. Cooper's Hawk
28. Red-tailed Hawk
29. Red-shouldered Hawk
30. Rough-legged Hawk
31. Great Horned Owl
32. Barred Owl
33. Belted Kingfisher
34. Red-headed Woodpecker
35. Red-bellied Woodpecker
36. Downy Woodpecker
37. Hairy Woodpecker
38. Northern Flicker
39. Pileated Woodpecker
40. American Kestrel
41. Merlin
42. Peregrine Falcon
43. **Eastern Phoebe**
44. Blue Jay
45. American Crow
46. Black-capped Chickadee
47. Tufted Titmouse
48. Red-breasted Nuthatch
49. White-breasted Nuthatch
50. Brown Creeper
51. Carolina Wren
52. Golden-crowned Kinglet
53. Eastern Bluebird
54. American Robin
55. Northern Mockingbird
56. European Starling
57. Cedar Waxwing
58. House Finch
59. Purple Finch
60. **Common Redpoll**
61. Pine Siskin
62. American Goldfinch
63. American Tree Sparrow
64. Dark-eyed Junco
65. White-throated Sparrow
66. Song Sparrow
67. Swamp Sparrow
68. Red-winged Blackbird
69. Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird - count week
70. Yellow-rumped Warbler
71. Northern Cardinal
72. House Sparrow

Sponsor-A-Speaker $100 sponsors are needed for WCAS Speaker Series programs in February, "One Green Space for All: Areas Significant for Migratory and Breeding Birds"; March, "The Life and Times of the American Woodcock"; and May, "Peregrine Falcons: Predators of Urban Canyons". **Volunteer Opportunity** to be a Science Fair Judge Northeastern Ohio Science Engineering Fair (NEOSEF), Tue March 12, 2019 at Cleveland State University. Contact info@wcaudubon.org for details. **Thank You Volunteer** speakers and contributors Tim Colborn, Karen Czerniawski, Dave Dvorak, Terry Gorges, Sam Henige, Nancy Howell, Tim Krynak, Fran Mentch, Kurt Miske, Joe Reardon, Terry Robison, Tom & Mary Anne Romito, Mary Jo Lakner Segal, Diane Sigler, Kaoru Tsubone, Rynette Vall, and Wendy Weirich. Bird walk and field trip leaders Erik Bruder, Tim Colborn, Bill Deininger, Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper, Nancy Howell, Rich and Karen Kassouf, and Mary Anne Romito. Photographers Bill Deininger, Tom Fishburn, Anna Julnes, Patrick McGuigan, Kathy Murphy, Penny O'Connor, Debra Sweeney, Kaoru Tsubone, and Mike Williams. **Welcome New Member** Josh Jeffi!

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 of the Rocky River Reservation.

Photo: Break Wall by Alice Merkel.

> Tues, Feb 5, 7:30 PM

One Green Space for All: Areas Significant for Migratory and Breeding Birds

Presenter: Jen Brumfield, Naturalist and Scientific Illustrator, Cleveland Metroparks
Date: Tue Feb 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: When people think of birding they think of heading out to acres of forests, wetlands or grasslands, but it does not need to be so. Even in a city the smallest of places or any "vacant lot" can be a haven for wildlife. Follow a set of railroad tracks, walk near abandoned industrial sites, check out an old cemetery … surprisingly birds love to use these areas while on migration for resting, feeding, or for nesting. Jen Brumfield shares places to look for birds in the city. Read Online

Photo: Blackburnian Warbler *(Setophaga fusca)* by Kathy Murphy.

Photo: American Woodcock *(Scolopax minor)* by David Lewis.

> Tues, Mar 5, 7:30 PM

The Life and Times of the American Woodcock

Presenter: Heather Shaw, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society
Date & Time: Tue March 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: The American Woodcock is not your typical shorebird. Rather than running on a sand beach or probing a mudflat, the woodcock haunts early successional forests and thickets. Many of us are familiar with or have watched the spring "sky dance" of the woodcock, but what about the rest of its life through the year? Read Online

> Tues, Apr 2, 7:30 PM

Warbler Identification Warm-up

Presenters: Matt Valencic and Kelly Koslowski
Date & Time: Tue Apr 2, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: Many warbler species pass through NE Ohio during spring migration, and some remain in Ohio to nest. This presentation uses photographs to help group warblers by appearance, preferred habitat - and unique behaviors such as tail wagging - songs, and ways to remember songs. Read Online

NEWS >>>

Above: Suzanne Aldrich *(l)* and Lisa Del Rio *(r)* by Betsey O'Hagan.

Growing the Bird Friendly Coffee Club

By Suzanne Aldrich

Why would a tea drinker decide to volunteer to coordinate a coffee club? It wasn't about making sure that you are all caffeinated for days, weeks and months ahead!

I volunteered because I wanted to make a noticeable difference for the birds – and grow the bird-friendly coffee drinking community within Northeast Ohio. Birds and Beans LLC coffee is already a known by the bird watching aficionados in the Cleveland area. But still most coffee drinkers do not know how rich bird-friendly coffee tastes, how it's grown, how it helps the farmers and of course, how it helps migratory birds return to Ohio.

I knew that when I started this volunteer position I wanted to promote great tasting coffee that's organic, fair-trade, grown 100% under a dense forest canopy. I wanted to be the WCAS coffee diva!

Promoting the Coffee Club as a local distributor providing personal delivery with no or little shipping and handling shared among all of the coffee drinkers, I was able to successfully grow the Coffee Club to sales of 3,496 ounces in 2018. *(continued next column...)*

Now it's time to hand over the reins to Lisa Del Rio to expand our WCAS Coffee Club even farther. 5% of our yearly sales supports conservation projects in NE Ohio. Order at the Store http://bit.ly/2Ry1Nw. Or, email LisaDelRio@wcaudubon.org with the # of bags, size, grind, and blend you wish to order. Read Online

Mark Your Calendars!

Event: 43rd Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF)
Date: March 27 - April 7, 2019
Location: Tower City Cinemas at Tower City Center in Downtown Cleveland, OH 44113

Event: Birds of Lake Erie Day
Host: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
Date: Sat, Apr 27, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH 44140
Fee: $10/person ages 4 and up. Registration advised.

Event: 2019 City Nature Challenge
Host: Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Date: Apr 26, 2019 - May 5, 2019
Location: Cleveland-Akron-Canton OH USA
Website: http://citynaturechallenge.org/

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.

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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! Read Online

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 wcaudubon.org/membership You'll be glad you did and the birds will thank you for it!

amazonsmile

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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