



# THE FEATHERED FLYER

## May 2017 - July 2017

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## What Is Shade-Grown Coffee?

Suzanne Aldrich, Coffee Club Coordinator, Western Cuyahoga Audubon

*“What is shade-grown coffee? It is difficult to define.” ~ Suzanne Aldrich, Bird-Friendly Coffee Coordinator*

Before I started as coffee “queen” (aka coffee club coordinator) of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Bird Friendly Coffee Club, I went on a quest to find 100% shade-grown coffee. I contacted a coffee distributor who told me that Arabica beans (*Coffea arabica*) and anything labeled “organic” for sale on their website was shade-grown. Various studies indicate that Arabica coffee has the highest yields under 35% to 65% shade. How could I stand in front of a group of dedicated birders and conservationists to promote coffee with this answer? After contacting coffee distributors in the Cleveland area, I still could not get anyone to admit that they sold 100% shade-grown coffee.

What is shade-grown coffee? It is difficult to define. Coffee is grown under a continuum of conditions, from rustic or traditional, to full sun, and these “shades of shade” are not all equal when it comes to healthy ecosystems. Rustic or traditional conditions refers to family farms with 70-100% shade-cover, while full sun lacks a tree canopy or has a few isolated trees. In order to produce high yields to keep up with the demand, many plantations are growing coffee under full sun conditions. Plantation owners remove trees and grow only coffee plants. If there are few or no trees, migratory species, such as the Chestnut-sided Warbler and Baltimore Oriole, lose the wintering habitat they need.

In my research, a new term surfaced, Bird Friendly®. The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center established a certification program to target shade management. To be certified as a Bird Friendly® farm (carries the Smithsonian label on their bags), family farms must be 100% organic and have a diverse canopy of at least 10 species of woody trees in addition to a backbone shade species of no less than 12 to 15 meters in height. What is the benefit to you? Every bean in a bag of Bird Friendly Coffee is 100% shade grown, 100% organic and fair trade and provides the winter habitat needed for neo-tropical birds. Shade-grown beans produce a richer favor. Try a cup at a Speaker Series meeting and buy coffee at our online Store. For more ways to order our shade-grown coffee, see the next page.



Photo: Sanctuary Focus by Alice Merkel. Rocky River Reservation, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070 .

## How to Purchase Shade-Grown Coffee

Purchase Birds and Beans, Smithsonian Bird Friendly®, USDA Organic, Fair-Trade Certified Coffee online at <https://goo.gl/HcbbBi> or use the order form available online and at monthly member meetings. Questions? Contact Suzanne Aldrich at [SuzanneAldrich@WCAudubon.org](mailto:SuzanneAldrich@WCAudubon.org) or at (440) 465-6612. Place your order by the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month.

## BIRD WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS >>>



Photos (left to right): July Birders by Penny O'Connor; Cooper's Hawk by John Simms; Frog by Dave Lewis; and Viceroy by Penny O'Connor.

## Second Saturday Bird Walks at Rocky River Nature Center

UPCOMING DATES: May 13, 2017 / June 10, 2017 / July 8, 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.

## Audubon Spring Bird Walks

Birders have participated in Annual Audubon Spring Bird Walks since 1932. Watch spring migrants return or travel through to their summer breeding grounds. Walks take place Sundays, April 16 – May 21, 2017 at 7:30am and are led by experienced birders in Cuyahoga County and surrounding locations. Audubon Spring Bird Walks are co-sponsored by Cleveland Metroparks, The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Geauga Park District, Lake Metroparks, Huntington Reservation at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. Visit our Calendar ([wcaudubon.org/calendar](http://wcaudubon.org/calendar)) for details.

> *Wednesday, May 17, 6:00 PM*

## Early Evening Bird Walk at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center (LENSC)

**Date & Time:** Wed May 17, 2017 at 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
**Location:** 28728 Wolf Rd. Bay Village, OH [Map](#)

Enjoy an early evening bird walk in Huntington Reservation. Meet at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village, OH. Good chance to see Barred Owls as well as migrating warblers.

> *Saturday, June 3, 9:00 AM*

## Birding at Acacia Reservation

**Date & Time:** Sat June 3, 2017 at 9:00am - 12:00pm  
**Location:** Acacia Reservation, Cedar Rd, Lyndhurst, OH [Map](#)  
**Leader:** Wendy Weirich, Director of Outdoor Education, Cleveland Metroparks  
**Target Species:** Grassland species

Wendy Weirich will lead this walk at Acacia Reservation, a 155-acre former golf course returning to a natural state. Park in the lot off of Cedar road. Meet between the banquet center and the old cart barn/restroom.

> *Sunday, July 16, 8:00 AM*

## Field Trip to Pine Tree Picnic Area

**Date & Time:** Sun July 16, 2017 at 8:00am  
**Location:** French Creek Park, 4540 French Creek Rd, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054 [Map](#)  
**Leader:** Erik Bruder  
**Target Species:** Scarlet Tanager, orioles, vireos, flycatchers, nesting warblers

Pine Tree Picnic Area offers forest trails with a variety of colorful summer resident birds. It is located off French Creek Rd. in Sheffield Village in the French Creek Reservation, Lorain Metro Parks. Meet at Shelter No. 1.

## Field Trip to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

**Date & Time:** Sat Aug 5, 2017 at 9:00am  
 Bus tour around the refuge. Space is limited, reservations required, contact Penny O'Connor [pjo@earthlink.net](mailto:pjo@earthlink.net) or (216) 676-4859.



Photo: Barred owl (*Strix varia*), Wikimedia, Creative Commons 3.0.



Photo: Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) by David Lewis.

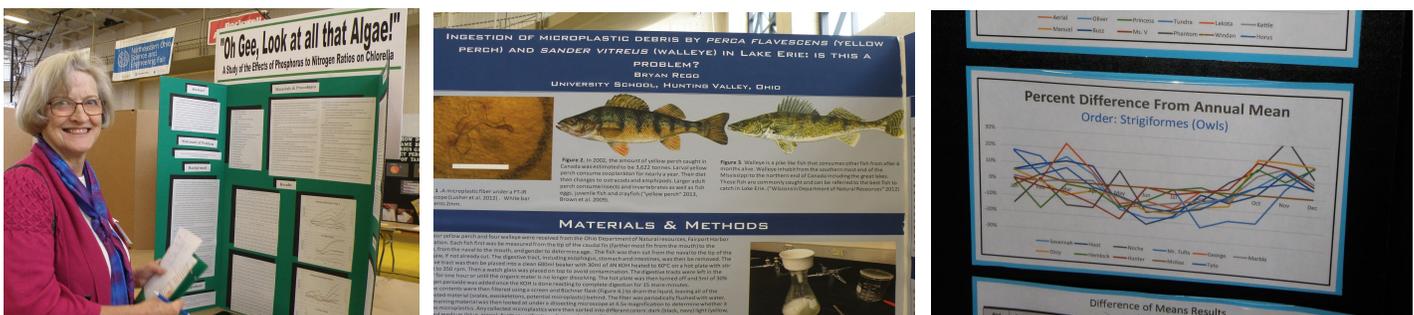


Photo: Warbling vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) by Lisa Rainsong.

# VOLUNTEER SECTION >>>

## Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair Special Awards

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society recognized six students for outstanding projects relating to birds and/or conservation in the local watersheds at the 64th Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF), held March 6-9, 2017 at John Carroll University. Caleb Rykaczewski of Mentor High won a \$100 special award from WCAS for his research on seasonal variation of food intake by raptors at a wildlife rehabilitation center. Caleb was a WCAS special award winner in 2016 as well, for his project on the spread of avian flu. He volunteers at Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center, Lake Metroparks Penitentiary Glen. Bryan Rego from University School investigated ingestion of microplastic debris by walleye and yellow perch in Lake Erie for a top prize of \$100. Honorable mention went to Columbia High's Ben Alten for work on the effect of terracing on field runoff. Robert Kent, a St. Anselm student, looked into the question of whether microplastic contaminants are more abundant in farm-raised or wild clams. Meghan Kessinger from Beaumont School studied algal growth. Comparison of nitrate and phosphate levels in disturbed and undisturbed lakes netted honorable mention for Sana Siddiqui, from Berea-Midpark High, who studied water samples from Beyer's Pond, Coe Lake, Lake Abram, Lake Isaac and Lake Erie. WCAS science fair judges were Karen Czerniawski and Penny O'Connor.



Above (left to right): Judge Karen; Perch And Walleye; and Raptor Study. Photos by Penny O'Connor.

## Thank You Volunteers!

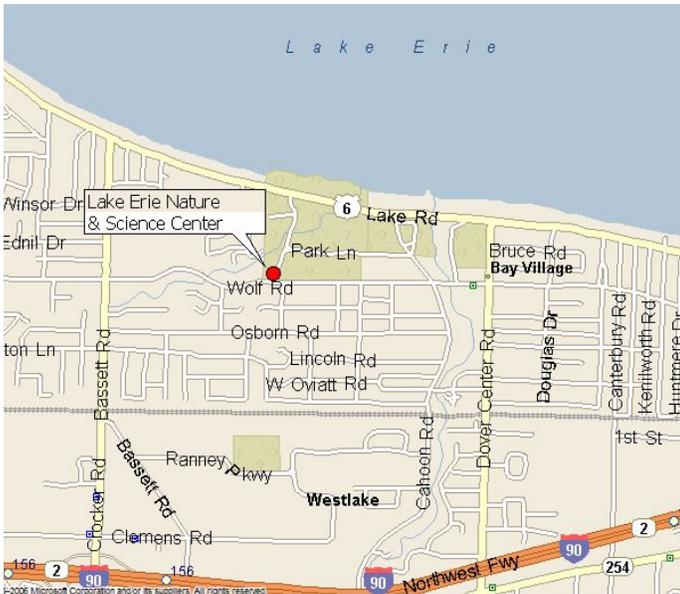
Western Cuyahoga Audubon would like to thank volunteers Penny O'Connor and Karen Czerniawski, Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair judges. Thanks go to Board members Tim Colborn, Tom Romito, Mary Anne Romito and consultant Betsey Merkel for representing WCAS at the 41st Cleveland International Film Festival. Thanks also to 45+ local and international artists, scientists, organizations who contributed to 'WATER SPIRITS', a film and conservation education campaign by WCAS in conjunction with CIFF41, March 29 - April 9, 2017.

## Volunteer Opportunities

We're looking for volunteers to staff the Western Cuyahoga Audubon display table and assist with Bird Walks. If you're interested send your email to [info@wcaudubon.org](mailto:info@wcaudubon.org) and we'll follow up with you. Updates at <https://goo.gl/esU8r4>

- Second Annual Birds of Lake Erie Day, Sat Apr 29, 2017, 10:00am- 5:00pm, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd, Bay Village, OH
- Speaker Series, Tue May 2, 2017, 7:30pm, Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH
- Annual Picnic, Plant Exchange and Bird Walk, Tuesday, June 6, 2017, 6:00pm, Lagoon Picnic Area, Rocky River Reservation, Valley Pkwy, Brook Park, OH
- Backyard Biodiversity Bash, Sat Aug 26, 2017, 11am (for arrival and set up) to 4:30pm (for tear down), Watershed Stewardship Center at West Creek Reservation, 2277 West Ridgewood Dr, Parma, OH

# MAPS AND DIRECTIONS >>>



## ACACIA RESERVATION, CEDAR ROAD, LYNDHURST, OH 44124

Directions: Take I-271 to the Cedar/Brainard exit. Take Cedar Road West. Entrance to Acacia is only a short distance. It will be on the right, across the street from Cleveland Clinic buildings and Beachwood Mall.

## LAKE ERIE NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER

(see map, above)

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.

## PINE TREE PICNIC AREA

It is located off French Creek Rd. in Sheffield Village in the French Creek Reservation, Lorain Metro Parks. We will meet at Shelter No. 1.

Directions from Cleveland: Take Rt. 2/I-90 West to Rt. 611 (Exit 151). Turn right off of the exit ramp onto Rt. 611 (Colorado Ave.) Go about 1.3 miles on Rt. 611 to Abbe Rd. Turn left onto Abbe Rd. Proceed about 1 mile to French Creek Rd. Turn right on French Creek Rd. Go about one half-mile and over train tracks. Entrance for Pine Tree Picnic Area is on the right just past the tracks. There is a long driveway. When the driveway splits, bear left toward Shelter No. 1.



Photo: On the Trail by Betsey Merkel.

## 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, Rocky River Reservation, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070. Guests are welcome and invited to learn about the Audubon mission. For a map and directions, go to <http://www.wcaudubon.org/rocky-river-reservation.html>



> Tues, May 2, 7:30 PM

### Birds Give Me Warm Yummies

**Presenter:** Kathy Murphy, Member

**Date & Time:** Tue, May 2, 2017 at 7:30pm

Kathy Murphy, a Member of Western Cuyahoga Audubon, has found that birding and photographing birds, brings her contentment and joy. Her presentation, "Birds Give Me Warm Yummies", features over 200 bird species from Ohio. Kathy will share her personal thoughts on the abundance and variety in nature and of the beauty of our feathered friends. Kick off spring migration with an evening for new birders, nature lovers and those that love the wild things!



> Tues, June 6, 7:30 PM

### Annual Picnic, Plant Exchange and Bird Walk

**Date & Time:** Tue, June 6, 2017 at 6:00pm - 9:00pm

**Location:** Lagoon Picnic Area, Valley Parkway, between Cedar Point Road and Spafford Road, south of Rocky River Nature Center Map (NOT at Rocky River Nature Center – held outdoors at a nearby picnic shelter.)

*Continued...*

The final meeting of the 2016-2017 year is the Western Cuyahoga Audubon picnic and plant exchange. Bring your dinner (grill will be available for cooking), your family or friends AND bring any plants, seeds, bulbs that need homes. They can be houseplants or outdoor plants. If you don't have any plants to bring that is OK, but adopt an "orphan" plant. Bring your binoculars too since we have a bird walk along the Rocky River. See you there, rain or shine.



> Wed, March 29 - April 9, 2017

### 41st Cleveland International Film Festival

For the past five years, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has engaged in Cleveland International Film Festivals as a Community Partner. This year we again welcomed the opportunity to co-sponsor, with the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, the celebrated Finnish nature documentary, 'TALE OF A LAKE' (Järven tarina), a film that strongly aligns with our organization's message of valuing and protecting wildlife. Festival Chapter representative Tim Colborn explains, "'TALE OF A LAKE' has a special meaning for northern Ohioans because we can relate to the connection between wildlife, water and people." In the weeks preceding and during the festival, Western Cuyahoga Audubon hosted 'LAKE ERIE LEGENDS', a multimedia story series by Northeast Ohio natural science leaders in an online campaign for movie tickets and Chapter conservation education programs.

# NEWS >>>



Photo: Baltimore Oriole by Dave Lewis.

## Help Save the Songbird: Baltimore Oriole

Baltimore Orioles prefer to feed in the high branches of trees thus making them vulnerable to deforestation and habitat loss. Their populations have been declining throughout their range with Canada experiencing over a 3 percent loss per year (resulting in a cumulative loss of 24 percent) between 1966 and 2010, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.

They start to leave as early as July for wintering grounds in Florida, the Caribbean, Central America, and the northern tip of South America. One of their favorite habitats is shaded-coffee plantations where the Baltimore Oriole feeds on plentiful nectar and insects of the flowering shade trees.

How can you help save this songbird? Help by preserving bird-habitat! Join the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's informal coffee club today and start drinking bird-friendly coffee. You'll love the taste! For ordering information, see this issue, top of page 2.

## Welcome New Members!

We welcome new members Jason Kassouf, Lee and Barbara McConoughey, and Becky Robinson.

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Event:** 2nd Annual Birds of Lake Erie Day  
**Host:** Lake Erie Nature and Science Center (LENSC)  
**Date:** Sat, April 29, 2017  
**Location:** 28728 Wolf Rd, Bay Village, OH  
**Registration:** <http://bit.ly/2lxRH>

**Event:** 2017 Biggest Week in American Birding  
**Host:** Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
**Date:** May 5 - 14, 2017  
**Location:** Northwest Ohio  
**Website:** [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com)

**Event:** Bobolinks at Byers Woods – Ashland County Park District  
**Host:** Greater Mohican Audubon  
**Date & Time:** Sun, June 24, 2017, 9:00am - 1:00pm  
**Location:** Byers Woods, 675 Co Rd 1754, Ashland, OH  
**Target Species:** Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, Grassland species  
**Website:** <https://goo.gl/w8Tjll>

**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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**President**  
 Western Cuyahoga Audubon is currently Board run.

**President Emeritus**  
 Tom Romito

**Treasurer**  
 Nancy Howell

**Secretary**  
 Penny O'Connor

**Field Trip Coordinator**  
 Penny O'Connor

**Bird-Friendly Coffee Coordinator**  
 Suzanne Aldrich

**Directors-at-Large**  
 Liz Clingman  
 Tim Colborn

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

## Welcome New Board Members!

New Board Members-at-Large Suzanne Aldrich and Tim Colborn are bird lovers and environmental conservationists who bring a multitude of talents, experience and energy to our Chapter. Suzanne leads the Bird-Friendly Coffee Club advocating people drink shade-grown coffee to protect species and habitat. Tim Colborn is Chapter Community Partner representative who selects the sponsored film at the Cleveland International Film Festival March 29 - April 9.

## Become a Member of Western Cuyahoga Audubon

If you care about the environment and want to maintain diverse habitats for birds and wildlife, join Western Cuyahoga Audubon, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Membership dues support public education, conservation and advocacy programs with a local to global reach. Make a difference by becoming a Member of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. You'll be glad you did and the birds will thank you for it! Go to:

<http://www.wcaudubon.org/become-a-member.html>



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

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