



Christmas Bird Count 2014

Sunday, December 28

PRELIMINARY RESULTS LAKEWOOD (WEST SIDE OF CLEVELAND) BIRD COUNT

By Nancy Howell

The 2014 Christmas Bird Count for the Lakewood Circle was well covered by individuals and groups of birders from very experienced to beginners. Temperatures ranged in the mid to upper 30's with overcast skies, but no precipitation, little wind and, for the end of December, relatively mild weather. Inland water; lakes, streams and rivers were open as was Lake Erie. There was really nothing to concentrate birds, such as ice or snow; thus, some of the groups mentioned having difficulty finding some species. The birds were really spread out. Fewer fruits, seeds and berries on most trees and shrubs may have had an impact as well. Nonetheless, it was great to have all of our participants and great coverage. Let's do it again in 2015 ... oh yeah, we will!

In order to get this into the newsletter on time, only the species sighted on count day or during count week are listed. Complete results with numbers, any adjustments (additions or deletions of species) and a "thank you" to the list of participants, will be on the WCAS website by the end of January.

The list below of 80 species on count day/count week is terrific with some great surprises. Rare, unusual or unexpected species are bold, while count week species are in italics.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Canada Goose | Great Black-backed Gull | European Starling |
| Mallard | Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Cedar Waxwing</i> |
| American Black Duck | Bonaparte's Gull | Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) |
| Wood Duck | Little Gull | American Tree Sparrow |
| Northern Pintail | Pomarine Jaeger | <i>Chipping Sparrow</i> |
| Redhead | Rock Pigeon | Fox Sparrow |
| Canvasback | Mourning Dove | Song Sparrow |
| Greater Scaup | Barred Owl | Swamp Sparrow |
| Lesser Scaup | Snowy Owl | White-throated Sparrow |
| Black Scoter | Belted Kingfisher | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Surf Scoter | Red-headed Woodpecker | Lapland Longspur |
| Bufflehead | Red-bellied Woodpecker | Northern Cardinal |
| Common Goldeneye | Downy Woodpecker | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Hairy Woodpecker | Common Grackle |
| Hooded Merganser | Northern Flicker | House Finch |
| Common Merganser | Pileated Woodpecker | Common Redpoll |
| Ruddy Duck | American Crow | American Goldfinch |
| Wild Turkey | Blue Jay | House Sparrow |
| Horned Grebe | Black-capped Chickadee | Did we miss one? |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Tufted Titmouse | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | White-Breasted Nuthatch | |
| Great Blue Heron | Brown Creeper | |
| Bald Eagle | Carolina Wren | |
| Cooper's Hawk | Winter Wren | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Golden-crowned Kinglet | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Eastern Bluebird | |
| American Kestrel | Hermit Thrush | |
| Peregrine Falcon | American Robin | |
| Virginia Rail | Northern Mockingbird | |
| American Coot | | |
| Sandhill Crane | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | | |
| Herring Gull | | |

Inside this issue:

Field trips	Pages 2, 3
GBBC	Page 2
Programs	Page 4, 5
Bill Thompson III	Page 5
Volunteer Section	Page 6
Elections!!!	Page 7
Contact Us	Page 7
Join WCAS	Page 8

FIELD TRIPS

Mark Your Calendar for the Great Back Yard Bird Count

Save the dates for the Great Back Yard Bird Count, February 13-16, 2015. WCAS has scheduled two field trips to celebrate (see below).

Saturday, February 14, at 9 a.m. Great Back Yard Bird Count/Second Saturday Bird Walk

Trip Leaders: Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper and Bill Deininger

What better way to spend Valentine's Day morning than counting birds (preferably accompanied by a significant other) on the trails around the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center? Our February 14 walk occurs on the second day of the Great Backyard Bird Count. We will enter our results along with data from observers worldwide. Learn more about GBBC at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>. Meet in the parking lot of the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway in North Olmsted. Editor's Note - The last time I went, we met in the area of the parking lot close to the walkway to the Nature Center. A conspicuous group to be sure; some with binoculars in hand and already birding.

Sunday, February 15, at 8:30 a.m. Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Leaders: Various

Target species: Barred Owl, Winter Residents, Gulls

WCAS will join Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in the Huntington Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks for birding on the third day of the Great Backyard Bird Count. We will hike the woods and fields above Porter Creek as well as Huntington Beach at Lake Erie. Dress for the weather, then add another layer. Bring a scope if you have one. LENC is located at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. This is a worldwide citizen science effort. You can take part by watching feeders at home for as little as 15 minutes. See <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>.

Sunday, March 29, at 8:30 a.m. Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Leaders: Laura Gooch

Target species: Spring Migrants and Waterfowl

Laura Gooch is Project Coordinator for a multi-year bird survey started in 2014 in the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve/Doan Brook Important Bird Area. The survey is a joint project of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, the Kirtland Bird Club and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, supported by a grant from the National Audubon Society. On this field trip you will be able to enjoy bird life at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve and learn more about the ongoing survey project.

To learn what birds can be seen here in March (82 species) see eBird at <http://bit.ly/1xFPC0V> or in April (125 species) see eBird at <http://bit.ly/1Hpz81c>

To see the latest news on the CLNP survey project, visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CitizenScienceDike14>

The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve is located directly behind the Cleveland Metroparks Lakefront office at 8701 Lakeshore Boulevard NE, Cleveland, OH 44108. Take I-90 to Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. and go north toward Lake Erie. When traveling north on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, follow the road to the right as it becomes Lakeshore Boulevard heading east and make the first left into the Metroparks parking lot. We will meet in the parking lot then proceed on foot around the west side of the office to the Nature Preserve entrance.

A map and more about CLNP are at <http://bit.ly/1zKIEGd>

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m. Trails around the Rocky River Nature Center

Trip Leaders: **Bill Deininger, Den Gober & Dave Graskemper**

Target Species: **Woodpecker & Spring Migrants**



Downy Woodpecker
Courtesy Google - free Images

For our April field trip we will join the "Second Saturday" birders. At this time of year six and possibly seven woodpecker species can be seen here, and the earliest migrants are arriving. To see what birds can be found here in April, visit eBird at:

<http://bit.ly/1DNr8F9>

Beginning on Sunday, April 12, plan to enjoy spring migration at the Audubon Spring Bird Walks, held the last three Sundays in April and the first three Sundays in May, at many



American Woodcock
Courtesy Google - free Images

locations throughout the Cleveland area.

The Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center is located at 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted OH 44070. Meet in the parking lot. Look for a group of people with binoculars, some already checking for birds.

A map and directions are at: <http://www.wcasohio.org/>

WCAS Sponsors Second Saturday Bird Walks at RRNC

Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper and Bill Deininger lead walks on the second Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. on the trails around the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center. Our February 14 walk occurs on the second day of the Great Backyard Bird Count. We will enter our results along with data from observers worldwide. Learn more about GBBC at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>. New to birding? Grab some binoculars and join us. You will be amazed how fast you can learn to find birds by sight and sound. Meet in the parking lot of the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway in North Olmsted.

Upcoming dates for Monthly Morning with the Birds

Saturday, February 14
Saturday, March 14
Saturday, April 11
Saturday, May 9

Saturday, June 13
Saturday July 11
Saturday, August 8
Saturday, September 12

82nd Annual Series of Audubon Spring Bird Walks

From woodpeckers and woodcocks in April to colorful warblers and orioles in May, watch spring migrants en route to their summer breeding grounds during the 82nd Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks. Co-sponsored by local park districts, The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland & The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the walks open to all and are led by expert volunteers. Mark your calendar for Sundays, April 12 through May 17 at 7:30 a.m. at many locations throughout the Cleveland Area. For a list of locations, visit the WCAS website.

Left - Pileated Woodpecker.

Right - Red-bellied Woodpecker

Both Courtesy Google free Images



PROGRAMS

All WCAS programs are free & open to the public. Our monthly programs are held the first Tuesday of each month, September through May, at Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, Ohio. For a map & directions see www.wcasohio.org.

February 3, 7:30 PM

Cranes on the Rise: Natural History, Biology, and Management of Ohio's Growing Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes



Greater Sandhill Crane
Courtesy birds.audubon.org

Since the mid 1980's, the Greater Sandhill Crane returned as a breeding bird species in Ohio and its population has spread across wetlands that have been restored or conserved on public and private lands. Dr. Robert Gates, from OSU's Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Laboratory, presents his program, "**Cranes on the Rise: Natural History, Biology, and Management of Ohio's Growing Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes**". His presentation will cover the past, present and possible future of Ohio's breeding crane population, including recent research on distribution, seasonal movements, migration, and habitat use along with some interesting facts about crane biology thrown in for fun and learning.



Greater Sandhill Crane
Courtesy westernwild.org

March 3, 7:30 PM

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: Conserving the Future

Jason Lewis, manager of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, will share with us the mission and roles of ONWF. The refuge protects important habitat for migratory waterfowl, songbirds, and shorebirds such as the dunlin. While birders see it as a great place for birds and other wildlife, many other aspects, such as conservation, restoration and partnerships are also key functions of the refuge. Jason's program, "**Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: Conserving the Future**", will also include visitor experiences that will keep us coming back.

An excerpt from an article written by Valerie Rose Redmond: Lewis joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1998 as a biological science technician and spent the majority of his



Dunlins at ONWR, Courtesy ONWR website

Service career as a wildlife biologist. The National Wildlife Refuge System and the Service's role in migratory bird conservation were two of the primary factors that attracted Lewis to the Service. His first experience working with the Service was as a volunteer at Muscatatuck NWR banding wood ducks. Lewis says that the idea of working for an agency that was dedicated to migratory bird conservation was inviting. Ohio, however, is a new place to live and work for Lewis. "I was attracted by the multitude of partnership opportunities, the biodiversity, and the thought of working in one of the most ecologically important wetland systems in the United States, if not the world," Lewis says. "The Lake Erie marshes which include the refuge and surrounding public and private lands collectively are one of the premier birding hot spots in the country. The avian biological diversity one can encounter on any given day during any time of the year is truly remarkable; however, the spring migration is a sight that everyone with an interest in bird conservation should experience at least once in their lives." As a passionate birder and one interested in migratory bird research and conservation, Ohio was a good fit for him, his wife, Gwen and their two aptly named girls, Willow and Wren.

PROGRAMS

April 7, 7:30 PM

Ohio's Woodpeckers: Flickers, Sapsuckers, Downies and More!



Marne Titchenell
Courtesy osu.edu

Wildlife Program Specialist from the OSU Extension, Marne Titchenell, will present the program, "**Woodpeckers are amazing birds - their incredible abilities have earned them the nickname 'nature's power tools'.**" We will explore why they have earned this title, their interesting lifestyles and Ohio's seven different species of woodpeckers.

Excerpts from the OSU website - Marne Titchenell received her bachelor of science in wildlife management and forestry from The Ohio State University in 2004. She continued her study of forest wildlife at OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources, where she obtained her master of science in 2007. In late 2007, she became a Wildlife Extension Program Specialist, for OSU Extension. Marne has gained experience working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA Forest Service. In 2006, she worked as a naturalist for the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, where she developed a passion for environmental education. In late 2007, Marne accepted her current position as Wildlife Program Specialist, with OSU Extension. She works to provide a variety of educational programs, workshops,

conferences, and publications centered on wildlife ecology and biology, habitat management for wildlife, and managing nuisance wildlife species.

Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 PM

***WCAS, Kirtland Bird Club & Audubon of Greater Cleveland Present
Bill Thompson III on "More Perils and Pitfalls of Birding"***

Editor Bill Thompson III of Bird Watchers Digest will be giving a talk entitled "**More Perils and Pitfalls of Birding**" at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on Monday, April 1, in the auditorium. Bill is an entertaining speaker who has traveled extensively in the pursuit of bird watching. He will have items to sell and share before and after the presentation.

Bill Thompson III has been birding for four decades and in that time he has had some—ummm—unusual experiences, met some unusual people, and learned a great many lessons (the hard way) about birding and human nature. In this completely new take on his wildly popular "Perils & Pitfalls" talk Bill tells tales of birds, birders, and the amazing things that happen when you're out there watching. As has been his standing policy, if you don't laugh at least once during this talk, Bill will clean the binoculars of everyone present.

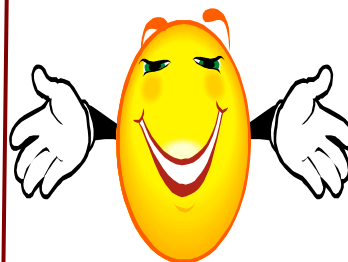
Bill Thompson III (or BT3 as he is better known) is a lifelong birder, the co-publisher of Bird Watcher's Digest (BWD), and the author of many books on birds and nature. He's been on the editorial team of BWD since May of 1988, and during that time has watched birds in 49 U.S. states (still missing Hawaii) and more than 30 countries. Bill writes the Bill of the Birds blog and creates and hosts a podcast called "This Birding Life" which gets more than 750,000 episode downloads annually. He is the president and a founding board member of The Ohio Ornithological Society, and also serves on the board of directors for the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. He is devoted to introducing kids to nature and birding and considers his Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America to be his proudest professional achievement. Bill lives

on a farm in southeastern Ohio with his wife, Julie Zickefoose, and their two children, Phoebe and Liam. In his spare time, Bill writes music and performs with his country-rock band The Rain Crows. His favorite North American bird is the red-headed woodpecker.



Bill Thompson III

Welcome New Members



Mark Eberling
Ray Kutnar
Wendy Miller
Donna Owen
Kathy Smith

VOLUNTEER SECTION

Volunteer Opportunity: Science Fair Judging

For the past few years Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has made special awards at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF). Our focus is birds and conservation, with emphasis on local watersheds. NEOSEF involves 600 or more top science students in grades 7-12 from a 7-county area. Judging is on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at Cleveland State University. Judges need to be available from 1-6 p.m. on that day. If you have some science background and would like to volunteer as a WCAS science fair judge, contact Penny O'Connor 216-676-4859 pjo@earthlink.net.



WCAS Needs YOU!

INSPIRE others

Make a DIFFERENCE

SHARE your passion

Engage Educate Conserve

Elections for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors at Large will be held at the April 1 general meeting at the Rocky River Nature Center. Nominations can be made now by calling or emailing a Board member (see Page 7 for contact information), through the website (click on 'Contact Us'), or at meetings before elections. **The Board requests that you consider taking an active role in YOUR Audubon Chapter.** We specifically need nominations for President, Vice President, and Directors at Large. You may nominate yourself or willing members. Please be certain the person/people you nominate are willing to serve. Officeholders become Board members. The Board typically meets once a month. **Help shape the future of WCAS and be part of the good work WCAS is doing in your community.**

Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference 2015 Sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Wednesday, March 11, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ohio DNR will host the Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference 2015, **Wildlife Challenges & Positive Connections** at The Aladdin Shrine's Complex in Columbus, located at 3850 Stelzer Road just south of Morse Road. From I-270 E, exit at Morse Road and go west 1/2 mile, turning left onto Stelzer Road. Directions are available on-line at www.aladdinshrine.org/directions.php. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Topics will include **Birthright: People and Nature in the Modern World**, presented by Stephen Kellert, Yale School of forestry, **Hunters and Birdwatchers: and the Survey Says**, presented by Jeremy Bruskotter, The Ohio State University, **Swan Song: Trumpeters vs. Mutes**, presented by Laura Kearns, ODNR Division of Wildlife, and much more.

There will be a sit-down luncheon (turkey croissant, fresh fruit, pasta salad, dessert or vegetarian option) on site for those who pre-register, \$14.50. You will have the opportunity to visit with other attendees and the speakers. There are also several restaurants within a short driving distance.

Pre-registration is highly recommended and is \$25.00 if paid before February 26, 2015. Registration after that date or on site will be \$35.00. The registration fee includes all breaks and handout materials. The luncheon is available ONLY with pre-registration. Fees are nonrefundable; if you are unable to attend, you may send a substitute.

More information is available on-line at <https://apps.ohiodnr.gov/Wildlife/DiversityRegistration/>

General

Special National Audubon Society Program

The Impacts of Northeast Ohio's Warming Climate

February 3, 6:30 - 8:30, CWRU's Tinkham Veale University Center

Hosted by Case Western Reserve University's Office for Sustainability

The effects of Climate Change are already being felt across the globe. This symposium will explore the local impacts that directly shape the quality of life in northeast Ohio. An expert panel will discuss issues surrounding public health, agriculture, wildlife, the economy and the Great Lakes.

Moderated by

David Beach

Director, GreenCityBlueLake Institute, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Featuring

Aparna Bole

MD, FAAP, Sustainability Manager, University Hospitals

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital

Bryan Stubbs

Executive Director, Cleveland Water Alliance

Joanne Scudder

Director of Sustainability, Cuyahoga County Fair

Dave Spangler

Lake Erie Charter Boat Association

Marnie Urso

Senior Program Manager, National Audubon Society

You can register for this FREE event at www.audubonaction.org/CWRUforum

Carbon Offset Project Update

Our special funds for the Carbon Offset Bird Project, which are used in conservation efforts, has had a change. In the spring of 2014, Western Cuyahoga Audubon was approached to assist with the purchase of land along the Rocky River in N. Royalton, in our Important Bird Area. The Board saw an opportunity to utilize the Carbon Offset money collected up until then and add to the funds from WCAS's treasury to total \$2000 and, as a result, the land was purchased. While access to the property by people may not be possible, the habitat protected will be utilized by wildlife and help the watershed of the Rocky River. Since our funds were utilized we are starting fresh and new with the Carbon Offset Bird Project funds. Thanks to generous members our funds are beginning to grow.

Fund Total as of January 1 - \$164.00

Contact Us

WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4310 Bush Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109
Phone: 216-741-2352



Visit our website

www.wcasohio.org

Check us out on Facebook

www.facebook.com/wcasohio

WCAS Chapter Newsletter

Published 4 times per year
February, May, August & November
By the Western Cuyahoga
Audubon Society

www.wcasohio.org is the
official Chapter Web Site

Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/wcasohio

WCAS Board Meetings are open
to all members. Consult the
WCAS calendar or contact any
board member for dates

President

Nora Ebie, 216-688-1758

President Emeritus

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

Treasurer

Nancy Howell, 440-891-1710

Newsletter Editor

Kurt Miske, 440-835-6700

Webmaster

Mary Anne Romito, 216-741-2352

Field Trip Coordinator

Penny O'Connor, 216-676-4859

Directors at Large

Liz Clingman, Kit Birch



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter Supporter Application

Why wait! Join WCAS as a chapter supporter.

Chapter Membership year: September 1 through August 31

Chapter Dues give you our newsletter, a nametag & a window cling.	Check one:	1 or 2 people	Family	Organization
	Dues	\$20	\$35	\$55
Additional Donation (Check one)	\$5	\$10	\$20	Other
			\$_____	Total enclosed
				\$_____

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP
TELEPHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS

**Make your check payable to WCAS. Mail to Nancy Howell, Treasurer,
19340 Fowles Rd., Middleburg Hts. Ohio, 44130**

