



## We're getting a new website!

By Tom Romito

As every Western Cuyahoga Audubon member knows, we have a dynamite website. We've had it since 2003, when Mary Anne Romito learned web design and built our current site. Now, though, the time has come to upgrade it. We need to do so for several reasons.

Mary Anne has personally maintained the site by herself since the time she created it because the software does not allow more than one person to edit it. As a result, all contributors have had to send their input to Mary Anne for incorporation into the site. Further, the software is becoming archaic and Internet providers will not support it in the future.

**"It will shift Western Cuyahoga Audubon operations and communications to online tools and data storage so the chapter does not suffer from 'Digital Darwinism' – adapt or die."**

As we all know, burnout and shortage of volunteers is a threat to sustainability. This reality led the Western Cuyahoga Audubon board to hire a consultant to build a new site with a variety of benefits. First, all board members will be able to upload their activities directly to it. Second, the enhanced site will be visible to more people on their personal devices. Third, the site will have interactive maps. Using these, board members can post detailed information about our programs and field trips that will enable viewers and potential members to easily find locations.

Our consultant, Betsey Merkel, is providing a variety of services to enhance the website. They include publishing research, contributed and branded multimedia content that is searchable, shareable, and viewable across all devices; and hosting news and editorial forums and broadcasts. Betsey is also providing operational services such as a calendar; membership sign-up; e-commerce; e-mail database; survey management; and an online library for organizational documentation, research, and digital data archives.

In describing the new site, Betsey says, "It will shift Western Cuyahoga Audubon operations and communications to online tools and data storage so the chapter does not suffer from 'Digital Darwinism' – adapt or die. These features will support all of Western Cuyahoga Audubon's work - past, present and future. By making this transition, the chapter can function more efficiently, eliminate some actions, and improve the way some things are done."

Among other features the new site ([wcaudubon.org](http://wcaudubon.org)) will have is an online store or "e-commerce." Betsey says, "Think of the store as our ticket booth, registration table, library, book store, and campaign office all in one. The store handles transactions that may or may not involve cash. We want to give people a convenient way to pay membership, make a donation, register for an event, or download an article to their desktop or Kindle. People expect to see and go to a place to shop online today. The intent of the online store is to help us cover our fixed expenses, not to make a profit."

The site will also enable us to track the effects of our actions online. By doing so, we will be able to learn the preferences of those we engage so we can improve what we do for those we serve.

Technology matures by the minute. It's complicated, and is not always easy to understand or explain! We will learn how to leverage the power and interactivity of the web to strengthen what we do.

### Inside this issue:

Field trips	Pages 2, 3
Programs	Page 4
Environmental News, more	Page 5
New Members	Page 5
Volunteer Section	Page 6
Contact Us	Page 6
CBC 2015	Page 7
Join WCAS	Page 8

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## FIELD TRIPS

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### Saturday, February 13, 9:00 AM Rocky River Nature Center

**Trip Leaders: Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper and Bill Deininger**  
**Target Species: Finches**

The trails around the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center lead to woodland and wetland habitats. Three expert leaders will guide us as we observe winter resident birds. An irruption of winter finches is predicted for this winter and these will be the target species.

The Second Saturday Bird Walk will be our field trip for February. The Great Backyard Bird Count is this weekend, and we will enter the results to be part of that.

The Rocky River Nature Center is located at 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted. We will meet in the parking lot. For a map and directions visit: [http://www.wcasohio.org/Rocky\\_River\\_Nature\\_Center.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/Rocky_River_Nature_Center.htm)

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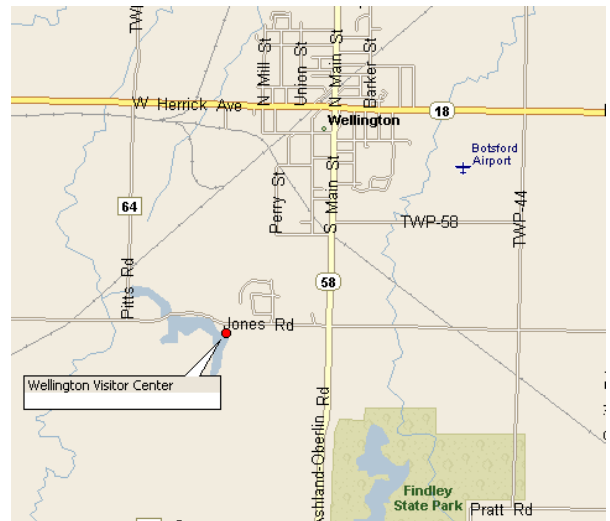
### Sunday, March 13, 9:00 AM Wellington Upground Reservoir

**Trip Leader: Erik Bruder**  
**Target Species: Migrating Waterfowl**

The Wellington Upground Reservoir is a great waterfowl stopover. Flocks of ducks, grebes, mergansers and scaup can be seen on the right day. There is easy viewing for all as vehicles with handicapped tags can park next to the water. Bring a scope if you have one. 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 Road, Wellington. Use the map for Wellington Reservation, then use the directions above to get to the reservoir.

A bigger map can be found at [www.wcasohio.org/wellington\\_reservation\\_visitor\\_c.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/wellington_reservation_visitor_c.htm)



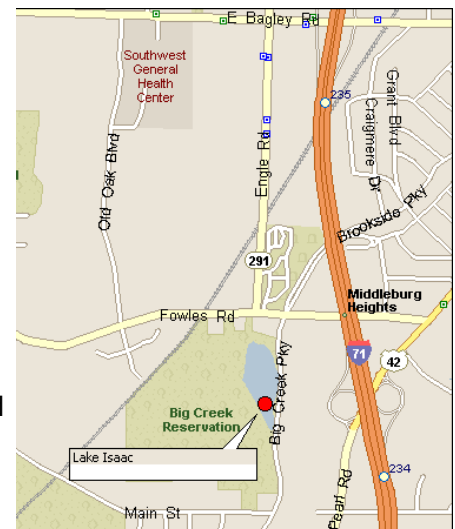
### Sunday, April 17, 7:30 AM Lake Isaac

**Trip Leader: Nancy Howell**  
**Target Species: All that we can see in different habitats**

WCAS birders will join in on one of the Audubon Spring Bird Walks for our April field trip. A variety of habitats around Lake Isaac includes forest and fields as well as Lake Isaac.

Lake Isaac is located in Middleburg Heights, on Big Creek Parkway, just south of Fowles Road. Take I-71 south from Cleveland to Pearl Rd. (Rte. 42). Go north on Pearl Road and watch for Fowles Road, a short distance. Turn left on Fowles Road. Follow Fowles to Big Creek Parkway and turn left. The parking lot for Lake Isaac is on the right.

A bigger map and directions can be found at: [www.wcasohio.org/lake\\_isaac.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/lake_isaac.htm)



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## FIELD TRIPS

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### SAVE THE DATE - May Field Trip Note the Different Time and Day!

There will be a special field trip Wednesday EVENING, May 18 at 6 p.m. at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center. Not an early bird? Come and check out the birds in the evening!

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### WCAS Sponsors Second Saturday Bird Walk at RRNC

Second Saturday Bird Walks are sponsored by Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper and Bill Deininger will lead walks on the second Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. on the trails around the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center. This is a great opportunity to see the birds of the Rocky River Important Bird Area. 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 13  
Saturday, March 12  
Saturday, April 9

Saturday, May 14, International Migratory Bird Day  
Saturday, June 11  
Saturday, July 9

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### 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks

Watch the spring migrants return or travel through to their summer breeding grounds during the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks. Cosponsored by Cleveland Metroparks, The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Western Cuyahoga Audubon, Geauga Park District, Lake Metroparks, Lake Erie Nature and Science Center and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, walks are led by experienced Birders and will be held on Sundays, April 10 through May 15 at 7:30 a.m. at the following locations:

#### Don't miss the migration!

- Aurora Sanctuary - Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland Sanctuary, parking lot east of Page Rd. on E. Pioneer Trail, east of routes 306 and 43, Aurora. 216-337-2202
- Bedford Reservation - Hemlock Creek Picnic Area parking lot, off Button Rd., Bedford. 330-715-6300
- Big Creek Reservation - Lake Isaac, Big Creek Parkway, Middleburg Heights. 440-891-1710
- Brecksville Reservation - Parking area at Station Rd. Bridge Trailhead, off Riverview Rd. south of route 82, Brecksville. 330-467-3664
- Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve - Lakefront Office parking lot, 8701 Lake Shore Blvd., Cleveland. Exit Shoreway at Martin Luther King Blvd., go north, follow Lake Shore Blvd. to right, turn left into first driveway on the left, bear left. 440-887-1968
- Gates Mills - Various locations. Call 440-338-4923 for details
- Gauga Park District - Various locations, Geauga County. Call 440-286-9516 for details
- Hinckley Reservation - Bridge at the south end of Hinckley Lake, off State Rd., Hinckley. 330-625-5503
- Hiram - James H. Barrow Field Station (Hiram College), 11305 Wheeler Road, Hiram. 330-527-2141
- Holden Arboretum - main parking lot off Sperry Rd., Kirtland. 440-946-4400
- Huntington Reservation - Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village. 440-471-8357
- Lake Metroparks - Lake Erie Bluffs, 2901 Clark Rd., Perry Township. 440-256-1404, ext. 2112
- Mentor Marsh - parking area on Headlands Rd., Mentor. 440-257-0777
- North Chagrin Reservation - Sunset Pond, off Buttermilk Falls Parkway, Mayfield Village. 440-473-3370
- Novak Sanctuary - Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland Sanctuary, parking lot north of Rt. 82 on Aurora Town Line Rd., Aurora. 440-543-6399
- Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation - Visitor Center parking lot, Whittlesey Way off E. 49th St. south of Grant Ave, Cuyahoga Hts. 216-206-1000
- Rocky River Reservation - Rocky River Nature Center parking lot, 24000 Valley Parkway (¼ mile north of Cedar Point Road), North Olmsted. 216-924-0188
- Shaker Lakes - The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes parking lot, 2600 South Park Blvd., Shaker Heights. 216-321-5935
- South Chagrin Reservation - Jackson Rd. parking lot, off Chagrin River Rd., Moreland Hills. 440-473-3370

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## PROGRAMS

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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. Guests are always welcome to programs and to introduce them to the Audubon mission. For a map & directions see [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org).

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### Tuesday, February 2, 7:30 PM “Will Bobwhite Return to Northeast Ohio?”



Springfield Bog Metro Park in Akron was a corn field when purchased in 2009. Now, nearly 100 acres of prairie surround two remnant bogs, and Northern Bobwhite are being reintroduced to the area. Join Metroparks Biologist Marlo Perdicas, in her presentation, “**Will Bobwhite Return to Northeast Ohio?**” to learn about Summit Metro Parks’ efforts to restore bobwhite and bobwhite habitat.

(left) Metro Parks biologist Marlo Perdicas outside a bat cave at Liberty Park (pic: Brian Bull)

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### Tuesday, March 1, 7:30 PM “Evolution of Flying Flowers”



Caddis Fly - Courtesy  
Google Free Images/Brittannica.com

Butterflies and moths are abundant insects found in many habitats. Yet few people know they are closely related to Caddis Flies. Both insect groups evolved when dinosaurs roamed the Earth in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. Fossils of early moths are found around the world, while in the United States, the first butterfly fossil was discovered in Colorado. Barbara Coleman, Western Cuyahoga Audubon member and a member of the Ohio Lepidopterists, will present the program, “**Evolution of Flying Flowers**”. She will also touch on information regarding the decline in Monarch and other butterfly populations which has led to increased research to discover the cause.

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### Tuesday, April 5, 7:30 PM “The Importance of Conservation: Exciting New Natural History Discoveries”



In spite of Ohio’s long history of natural history exploration, exciting new finds and rediscoveries still occur on a regular basis. Several new species of native plants have been discovered, as has a gorgeous katydid with one of the most complex songs in the singing insect world – possibly new to science. The 3,000 species of moths in the state represent an incompletely understood frontier and a rare Ohio habitat supports a beautiful species that was just described to science. Encouraging are rediscoveries of species thought to have long vanished from Ohio, such as the gargantuan Carolina wolf spider. These finds, and others, have a common denominator – they were found at sites which had been protected as natural areas. Join botanist and naturalist Jim McCormac in his presentation, “**The Importance of Conservation: Exciting New Natural History Discoveries**”.

(left) picture courtesy [jimmccormac.blogspot.com](http://jimmccormac.blogspot.com)

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**Save the Date**  
**Tuesday, May 3, 7:30 PM**

Our May program will feature Casey Tucker of the American Avian Conservation and Research Institute, who will speak on "DIY Conservation Biology". See the website and/or the next newsletter for details.

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**Science Lecture: Putting Nesting Birds on the Map**  
**April 15, 6:30-8 p.m.**

**Watershed Stewardship Center at West Creek**  
**2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma 440-253-2155**

Celebrate the release of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ohio book with Project Coordinator and Co-Editor Matt Shumar. Citizen scientists found an impressive 194 species of breeding birds in Ohio. Who are these birds and how have their ranges shifted in the last 25 years?

Ages: teens, adults

Fee: \$5 (light refreshments)

Register by phone or online by April 13, 440-887-1968

<http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/EventsProgramsCalendar/Science-Lecture-Putting-Nesting-Birds-on-the-Map-8219.aspx>

Remember - all our point count data went into this database, so even if you didn't volunteer directly for the Atlas, there is a good chance your sightings were reported!



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
*photo by Aaron Boone*

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**Environmental News**

**How Fast Is the Arctic Melting?**

According to an article on National Audubon's website by Katherine Bagley of Inside Climate News 1/05/16, scientists announced last month that the Arctic has warmed more than 5 degrees since



2000. This has caused drastic declines in sea ice, marine animals, and vegetation. Kit Kovacs, a biologist at the Norwegian Polar Institute, says that this persistent warming over the past 30 years will continue to cause widespread and systemic changes to the Arctic. Kovacs is a co-author of the 10th annual Arctic Report Card, a peer-reviewed scientific analysis of the region by 72 researchers from 11 countries. "Warming is happening twice as fast in the Arctic as anywhere else in the world," said Rick Spinrad, the chief scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Warmer air and sea temperatures in the Arctic mean faster ice melt which can mean expanding sea levels elsewhere in the world.

The Black Guillemot is one of many species that relies on ice for its survival. It is categorized as climate-threatened by Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report. Photo: Allan Hopkins

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**Reminder - Part of your purchase at The Rock Pile in Avon Lake benefits WCAS!**

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**The Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 12-15**

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the GBBC was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

We invite you to participate! Simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 12-15**.

Enter your results at [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org)

AND come to our Second Saturday Walk on 2/13!

**Welcome New Members**



John Blakemore  
Ann Heidenreich  
Bill Hildebrand  
Jackie Hildebrand  
Dottie McDowell  
Connie Wallace

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# VOLUNTEER SECTION

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## Volunteer Opportunity - What We're Doing (You Can Help) Science Fair Judging

**Tuesday March 8, from 1 PM - 6 PM at Cleveland State University**

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 several hundred top science students in grades 7-12 from a 7-county area. Judging is on Tuesday, March 8 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 or [pjo@earthlink.net](mailto:pjo@earthlink.net).

Are you experiencing *déjà vu* as you read this? It was in the last newsletter, too. But then we were just planting a seed. Now is the time to act!

### Thank You to Our Recent Volunteers

Many thanks to Kit Birch, Liz Clingman and Penny O'Connor for setting up the WCAS display and refreshments for the Ohio Young Birders Conference on Saturday, November 7, 2015. Over 130 young birders and their parents attended field trips and the presentations by young birders. The presence of Western Cuyahoga Audubon was prominently displayed as we support these young people.

Thanks go out to the 72 participants of in the Lakewood Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 27. Whether it was braving the weather conditions and walking trails, doing a driving route or watching the feeders at home, (for some of you it was all three!) all of your help was deeply appreciated in locating as many species in our area that day. See the article on the Lakewood Christmas Bird Count preliminary results on page 7.

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## ***Birds of Lake Erie Day - Saturday, April 30, 2016, 10 AM - 4 PM at LENS***

*By Amy LeMonds, LENS Director of Wildlife*

Join Lake Erie Nature and Science Center as they our nation's 100th year of migratory bird conservation at their first annual ***Birds of Lake Erie*** event. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is the premier education center for native wildlife and is the only public facility with both live animal exhibits and wildlife rehabilitation program in Cuyahoga County.

Activities include a variety of presentations including appearances from the Center's ambassador animals, bird hikes through the beautiful Huntington Reservation right up to the shores of Lake Erie, new dark skies planetarium shows and wildlife presentations from expert staff, partners and students. This day will have something for everyone from the beginning birder to the expert conservationist.

A bird band can be purchased for just \$8 and all the profits will support our wildlife programs including our wildlife rehabilitation program that examined over 120 different species and admitted over 1400 patients last year.

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center is located at 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village. For more information call 440-871-2900.

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## Contact Us

### **WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON**

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



*Visit our website*

[www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org)

*Check us out on Facebook*

[www.facebook.com/wcasohio](https://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](http://www.wcasohio.org) is the  
official Chapter Web Site

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Like us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/wcasohio](https://www.facebook.com/wcasohio)

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Western Cuyahoga Audubon  
Board Meetings are open to all  
members. Consult the calendar  
or contact any board member.

### **President**

WCAS is currently Board run

### **President Emeritus**

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

### **Treasurer**

Nancy Howell, 440-891-1710

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### **Webmaster**

Mary Anne Romito, 216-741-2352

### **Field Trip Coordinator**

Penny O'Connor, 216-676-4859

### **Directors at Large**

Liz Clingman

Kit Birch

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## Lakewood (West Side of Cleveland) Christmas Bird Count 2015 Preliminary Results

The following is a preliminary list of species from the Sunday, December 27, 2015 Christmas Bird Count. 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 of each species, additions or deletions of species, and a list of participants, will be on the WCAS website by the end of January.

The 2015 Christmas Bird Count for the Lakewood Circle, despite the weather, had very good coverage by 74 birders. Morning temperatures hovered around 50 degrees F, but as the day progressed temperatures dropped into the low 40's and, in some places, the upper 30's. That isn't too shabby for near the end of December ... what was not so great were the overcast skies and rain, rain, drizzle, rain, more drizzle and some wind. All lakes, ponds, rivers and streams were free of ice, and rivers and streams were very high and rushing due to the R-A-I-N.

With mild December temperatures and lack of snow and ice birds were not concentrated anywhere. The diversity of waterfowl, especially on Lake Erie, was almost non-existent. This also was not a year for a winter finch irruption or concentration of raptors. Participants even mentioned having difficulty finding locally common species, such as Song Sparrow and Mourning Dove. What might have caused this?

It was wonderful to have all of our participants provide great coverage of the circle, and a nice Thank You dinner. Hmmm, now if only the weather could be controlled.

The list below of **68** species on count day and count week is well below the number of species found over the past few years, more than likely due to events mentioned above. Rare, unusual or unexpected species are **bold**, while count week species are in *italics*.

- |                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Canada Goose                    | 24. American Coot                        | 47. <i>Winter Wren (count week)</i>          |
| 2. <i>Tundra Swan (count week)</i> | 25. Ring-billed Gull                     | 48. Golden-crowned Kinglet                   |
| 3. Mallard                         | 26. Herring Gull                         | 49. Eastern Bluebird                         |
| 4. American Black Duck             | 27. Great Black-backed Gull              | 50. American Robin                           |
| 5. Wood Duck                       | <b>28. Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>      | 51. <i>Northern Mockingbird (count week)</i> |
| 6. Redhead                         | 29. Bonaparte's Gull                     | <b>52. Gray Catbird (count week)</b>         |
| 7. Greater Scaup                   | 30. Rock Pigeon                          | 53. European Starling                        |
| <b>8. White-winged Scoter</b>      | 31. Mourning Dove                        | 54. Cedar Waxwing                            |
| <b>9. Surf Scoter</b>              | 32. <i>Great Horned Owl (count week)</i> | 55. American Tree Sparrow                    |
| 10. Common Goldeneye               | 33. Barred Owl                           | <b>56. Chipping Sparrow</b>                  |
| 11. Red-breasted Merganser         | 34. Belted Kingfisher                    | 57. <b>Fox Sparrow</b>                       |
| 12. Wild Turkey                    | 35. Red-bellied Woodpecker               | 58. Song Sparrow                             |
| 13. Common Loon                    | 36. Downy Woodpecker                     | 59. Swamp Sparrow                            |
| 14. Horned Grebe                   | 37. Hairy Woodpecker                     | 60. White-throated Sparrow                   |
| 15. Pied-billed Grebe              | 38. Northern Flicker                     | 61. Dark-eyed Junco                          |
| 16. Double-crested Cormorant       | 39. Pileated Woodpecker                  | 62. Northern Cardinal                        |
| 17. Great Blue Heron               | 40. American Crow                        | 63. Red-winged Blackbird                     |
| 18. Bald Eagle                     | 41. Blue Jay                             | 64. Common Grackle                           |
| 19. Cooper's Hawk                  | 42. Black-capped Chickadee               | <b>65. Brown-headed Cowbird</b>              |
| 20. Red-tailed Hawk                | 43. Tufted Titmouse                      | 66. House Finch                              |
| 21. Red-shouldered Hawk            | 44. White-breasted Nuthatch              | 67. American Goldfinch                       |
| 22. American Kestrel               | 45. Brown Creeper                        | 68. House Sparrow                            |
| 23. Peregrine Falcon               | 46. Carolina Wren                        |  |

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### You're invited to the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Board Meeting! Monday, February 15 at 6PM

The next Western Cuyahoga Audubon Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 15 at 6 PM at Panera on Tiedeman Rd at I-480. The organization is always ready for new and innovative ideas from our members. Contact Nancy Howell if you would like to attend the Board meeting. [Njh24425@hotmail.com](mailto:Njh24425@hotmail.com) or [nhowell@cmnh.org](mailto:nhowell@cmnh.org). Board meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each month.



# 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.	<b>Check one:</b>	<b>1 or 2 people</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Organization</b>
	<b>Dues</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$55</b>
Additional Donation ( <b>Check one</b> )	<b>\$5</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>Other</b>
			<b>\$_____</b>	<b>Total enclosed</b>
				<b>\$_____</b>

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

