



## Bird's-Eye View

Nora Ebie, President

August 2014

**F**inally! Summer is here! It's been a long, cold wait, but it's here.

At Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society we're not wasting a minute of it. We have a lot going on this summer and even more to come for fall and winter. From bird surveys at Dike 14-Doan Brook IBA (Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve-CLNP), to sponsoring a new Monthly Morning with the Birds at Rocky River Nature Center, to field trips to Bath Nature Preserve and Daughmer Prairie, summer with WCAS will be filled with warm sunshine, cool lake breezes and birds, birds, birds!

But we won't stop when summer comes to a close. We've got great things scheduled for fall, winter, and even next spring! Look inside for information on our **1<sup>st</sup> Annual WCAS Photo Contest** which runs September 1 to December 31, 2014. Go to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/wcasohio](http://www.facebook.com/wcasohio) and click on the Photo Contest tab for all the details.

We are very excited about this next event! We have scheduled another great joint event with *Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland* and *Kirtland Bird Club*.

**A Symposium on Wind Energy and Wildlife** will feature the nationally recognized Dr. Michael Hutchins from the American Bird Conservancy. This event is October 19, 2014 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Independence Civic Center. As we expect a large crowd, registration will be required – but it's FREE! Yep – our three organizations will be picking up the tab on this one, too. You can read more about this special event inside.

Watch your email for more information in the coming weeks on these and other exciting events.

Wow! With everything that's going on, your Board of Directors are busy, busy, busy. Trying to combine full-time jobs, family, friends, and personal "me" time with everything they have to do for all these events is starting to take its toll on your Board; they are running low on time and energy. They really need **YOUR HELP!**

WCAS is YOUR local Audubon Chapter. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for your awesome financial support. However, to continue to be able provide you with the quality field trips, programs, special events, community outreach, conservation, and citizen-science projects you've come to love and enjoy, we need a different type of support – man/woman power.

**Won't you please find some time to help YOUR Audubon Chapter?**

Look inside for the Volunteer Section (Pages 6 & 7) for how you can add value to your membership!

**NOT A MEMBER? NO PROBLEM!  
SEE OUR SPECIAL INSERT INSIDE  
TO JOIN NOW!**

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## FIELD TRIPS

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### **Saturday, August 16, 9:00 a.m. Daughmer Prairie Savanna Field Trip**

**Trip Leaders: David Dvorak (WCAS) and Warren Uxley (Crawford Parks)**  
**Target Species: Grassland Birds**

We will meet at 9 a.m. at Lowe-Volk Park as there are no facilities at Daughmer Prairie. Bring lunch. After our visit to Daughmer, we will return to Lowe-Volk for a picnic.

This field trip will be a prairie experience along with birding. Daughmer Prairie is one of Ohio's newest State Nature Preserves, purchased in January of 2011. Over its 160 years of agricultural use, it was grazed rather than plowed, which helped to maintain deep soils and a prairie habitat. There are 50 bur oak trees all of which are about 200 years old, which make it a classic Bur Oak Savanna. Daughmer also has an impressive sedge meadow surrounding a prairie pothole with a very rare plant community. This will be a Carbon Offset Field Trip. The distance from Cleveland is approximately 115 miles each way. Participants who wish to donate to the WCAS carbon offset fund based on mileage can find a calculator on our website at [http://www.wcasohio.org/Field\\_Trips.htm#Carbon\\_Offset\\_WCAS\\_Project](http://www.wcasohio.org/Field_Trips.htm#Carbon_Offset_WCAS_Project).

#### **DIRECTIONS FROM THE CLEVELAND AREA TO LOWE-VOLK PARK:**

Lowe-Volk Park is at 2401 SR 598, Crestline, OH 44827

Take I-71 south to Exit 176, Route 30. Go west on Route 30 about 21 miles to SR 598. Go north - follow the sign toward Shelby - on SR 598 for about 2 miles. Lowe-Volk Park is on the right, immediately past the Leesville sign. A map is at <http://www.crawfordparkdistrict.org/lvp-mapdirections.html>

#### **FROM LOWE-VOLK PARK TO DAUGHMER PRAIRIE:**

Daughmer Prairie is at 786 Marion-Melmore Rd, Bucyrus, OH 44820. From Lowe-Volk Park go south 2 miles on SR 598. When you reach Route 30, go west. Follow Route 30 for about 16 miles (you will pass Bucyrus exits) to Knauss Road. Knauss Road is a LEFT TURN across divided highway 30. Be cautious! Go 5.2 miles south on Knauss Road (about 5 stop signs) to Wyandot Rd. Turn right (west) on Wyandot Road. Go about 1.2 miles to Marion-Melmore Road. Turn left (south) on Marion-Melmore Road. Go about one-half mile and Daughmer Prairie is on the right.

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### **Saturday, September 13, 9 a.m. Rocky River Nature Center**

**Trip Leaders: Bill Deininger, Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper**  
**Target Species: Fall warblers and other migrants**

Monthly Morning with the Birds is back, now sponsored by Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. Birds are back from Canada and on their way to Central and South America. We can expect to see fall warblers and other Neotropical migrants. Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to attend.

Meet at the parking lot of the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, OH. A map is at: [http://www.wcasohio.org/Rocky\\_River\\_Nature\\_Center.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/Rocky_River_Nature_Center.htm)

#### **From east or west via I-90**

Exit at Columbia Road (Westlake). Turn South on Columbia Road. Go about 4.2 miles, past Brookpark Road. Turn left at the angled intersection on Mastick Road. Turn right on Shepard Lane and go down the hill. Parking lot entrance is on the right, just before Valley Parkway.

#### **Coming from the East on I-480**

Take I-480 to Clague Road in North Olmsted (Fairview Park). Go South on Clague Road to Mastick Road. Turn right (West) on Mastick Road. Turn left on Shepard Lane and go down the hill. Parking lot entrance is on the right, just before Valley Parkway.

#### **Coming from the West on I-480**

Take I-480 to Great Northern Blvd, Rt. 252. Go South on Great Northern Blvd (toward Olmsted Falls). Drive a short distance to Butternut Ridge Rd. turn left (east). At the end of the road, turn left (north) onto Columbia Rd. Turn right (east) onto Cedar Point Rd. and go down the hill. At the traffic light, turn left onto Valley Parkway. Just over a bridge, the entrance to the parking is on the left.

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## FIELD TRIPS

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### WCAS Sponsors Monthly Morning with the Birds at RRNC

Monthly Morning with the Birds is now 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, August 9, 2014  
Saturday, September 13, 2014  
Saturday, October 11, 2014

Saturday, November 8, 2014  
Saturday, December 13, 2014  
Saturday, January 10, 2015

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### Sunday, September 28, 8:30 a.m. Bird Walk at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

**Trip Leaders: (Various)**  
**Target Species: Fall Migrants**

Warblers and other migrants are flying back to South America from their nesting grounds in Canada. Grab your binoculars and meet at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center for a bird walk through the woods along Porter Creek to Lake Erie. Lake Erie Nature and Science Center is located at 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village. Map and directions are at: [http://www.wcasohio.org/Lake\\_Erie\\_Nature\\_and\\_Science\\_Center.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/Lake_Erie_Nature_and_Science_Center.htm)

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### Saturday, October 25, 9 AM Perkins Beach & Edgewater Park

**Trip Leader: Mary Anne Romito**  
**Target Species: Late Migrants, Waterfowl**

Perkins Beach has a great view from the top of a bluff over Lake Erie. Edgewater Park has a variety of attractive trees and shrubs for migrants to rest after crossing the lake on their way south. We may also check out nearby Wendy Park at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River.

#### Directions to Perkins Beach

There are two entrances for Edgewater Park. The eastern entrance goes to the lower area by the Edgewater beach and Wendy Park. the western entrance is for the upper area and Perkins Beach. We will use the WESTERN ENTRANCE, which is at the northern end of West Boulevard in Cleveland by Lake Erie. A map is at: [http://www.wcasohio.org/edgewater\\_park\\_\\_perkins\\_beach.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/edgewater_park__perkins_beach.htm)

#### From Cleveland/South:

Follow West 25 St (Rt. 42) north. Go past Detroit Ave and turn left (west) onto Rt. 2, the Shoreway. For Perkins Beach and the upper area of Edgewater Park, GO PAST the "Edgewater" exit, and continue west to Exit 191 for Lake Ave/West Blvd at the end of the Shoreway. Stay right for West Blvd. Turn right (north) at the end of the ramp into the parking lot by Lake Erie.

#### From East:

Take I-90 toward downtown Cleveland. Do not take the Innerbelt. Instead, stay to the right and continue west on Rte. 2, Memorial Shoreway. Go past the football stadium and over the Cuyahoga River. For Perkins Beach and the upper area of Edgewater Park, GO PAST the "Edgewater" exit, and continue west to Exit 191 for Lake Ave/West Blvd at the end of the Shoreway. Stay right for West Blvd. Turn right (north) at the end of the ramp into the parking lot by Lake Erie.

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### Sneak Preview: WCAS November Field Trip

In November, think Waterfowl at Wellington Reservoir. Erik Bruder will lead our field trip at 9 a.m. on Sunday, November 23, 2014. Ducks, geese, gulls and swans congregate here. Wellington Reservoir is quite accessible if you have a handicapped parking tag for your car. You will be able to park next to the water and bird out the window if you like!

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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, North Olmsted, Ohio. For a map & directions see [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org).

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**August  
No Program!  
Go Birding!**



Cattle Egret (left)  
[Simple.wikipedia.org](http://Simple.wikipedia.org)

American Avocet (right)  
[Taenos.com](http://Taenos.com)



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**Tuesday, September 2, 7:30 PM**  
***West Creek - A Story of Success***



Throughout the Cleveland area, right in our own neighborhoods are conservation projects that few people realize are happening. The West Creek Conservancy has implemented a number of projects that protect land, water, wildlife AND enhances the living areas for residents. Join us as Derek Schafer, Executive Director at West Creek Conservancy, shares many of the projects from urban agriculture, to protecting woodlands and the larger West Creek Reservation of the Cleveland Metro-parks in the presentation, "***West Creek: A Story of Success.***"

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**October Program  
at a Different Time and Place!!  
(see page 5)**



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## General News

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### **WCAS Awarded Grant for Bird Surveys**

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society is proud to announce that we have been awarded a \$2500 grant from National Audubon Society. This award will be used for the Dike 14 Doan Brook IBA Avian Survey Project: Phase 1.

This project is in partnership with Kirtland Bird Club and Greater Cleveland Audubon Society to begin bird surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve beginning July 2014. See page 7 for more information.

Editors Note: This project happened very quickly. The WCAS Board of Directors was approached by the Kirtland Bird Club to apply for the grant. Time was of the essence. Quick action by the board and especially by President Nora Ebner were necessary to get the grant.

Special thanks to Nora for all of her last-minute efforts to make this happen.

Volunteer's are needed! Please see page 7 for details. While much of the preliminary work has been done, birders are needed to conduct point counts. It's a great excuse to go birding!

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### **Christmas Bird Count, Save the Date December 28**

Be part of Audubon's 115th Christmas Bird Count. It is the longest-running citizen science effort in the world. Data from tens of thousands of participants provides critical data on bird populations. Sunday, December 28, 2014 is the date for Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society count. Birders of all skill levels welcome. To take part, contact Nancy Howell at (216) 231-4600 ext. 3225 (work), (440) 891-1710 (home) or e-mail [nhowell@cmnh.org](mailto:nhowell@cmnh.org).

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## PROGRAMS

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### October Program

**Please note that this program is NOT on the first Tuesday  
and is NOT at Rocky River Nature Center.**



### Special Event



***Please join Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Audubon Society of  
Greater Cleveland, and Kirtland Bird Club as we present a very special  
event:***

### Symposium on Wind Energy and Wildlife

**Featuring:** Dr. Michael Hutchins, National Coordinator, Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign,  
American Bird Conservancy

**Date:** Sunday, October 19, 2014

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Independence Civic Center



Dr. Hutchins will speak on American Bird Conservancy's national efforts to minimize the impact of rapidly expanding wind energy development on bird populations in the United States.

#### **Speaker Biography:**



In October 2013, Dr. Hutchins was named National Coordinator, Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization (<http://www.abcbirds.org/>) focused on the conservation of native bird populations in the Americas. ABC supports green energy development to address human-induced global climate change, but has serious concerns about widespread bird mortalities caused by wind turbines, including impacts to protected species, such as whooping cranes and eagles. It is therefore critical where such facilities are sited.

Two of Dr. Hutchins' primary responsibilities include promoting ABC's "Bird Smart" approach to wind energy development and monitoring major wind energy projects for their potential impact on bird populations.

Michael earned his Ph.D. in animal behavior with minors in ecology and statistics at the University of Washington in Seattle. He has traveled to over 30 countries and 6 continents to pursue his passion for wildlife and nature conservation. Prior to coming to ABC, Michael served as Director/William Conway Endowed Chair, Department of Conservation and Science at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for 15 years, and Executive Director/CEO at The Wildlife Society for seven years. He has authored over 220 scientific and popular articles and books on various topics in wildlife science, management, and conservation, including many on birds.

**Watch your email in the coming weeks for more  
details on this special event.**



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## VOLUNTEER SECTION

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### Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

**Event Coordinators** – Help with the planning of our large-venue joint events. Work with members of Greater Cleveland Audubon Society and Kirtland Bird Club in planning and coordinating these special events. A couple hours a week is all that would be required. If you have ever planned a dinner party, helped with your child's wedding, organized that "Big-50" party for your spouse, you have the qualifications! Contact Nora Ebie or Nancy Howell for more information.

**Event Greeters** – Help set up the WCAS information table at our special events and greet people as they enter. Assist disabled and late-comers in finding adequate seating. Direct people to the refreshment area, restrooms, etc. Answer questions and hand out literature. Contact Nora Ebie or Nancy Howell for more information.

**Equipment and Supply Carriers** – Transport and carry supplies to programs and/or events. May be asked to lift and/or carry small furniture, boxes and/or display items. Need to be available before and after events. Contact Nancy Howell for more information.

**Content Compiler** – Help Webmaster/Social Media Manager gather/compile timely content relative to WCAS for posting on social media outlets Facebook, Twitter, Google+. Review various sites, social media groups, and pages and send links to information. Will work directly with Webmaster/Social Media Manager. Two or three hours per week is all that would be needed. Contact Nora Ebie for information.

#### Monthly Program Volunteers:

- **Greeters** – Greet members and guests during our monthly member programs.
- **Refreshment Coordinators** – Setup and clean-up of the coffee and refreshments. Programs are the first Tuesday of every month September – May at the Rocky River Nature Center. Volunteers need to arrive by 6:45 pm. Programs run from approximately 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Contact Nancy Howell for information.

**Field Trip Leaders and Photographers** – Know your birds? Take decent pictures? We need volunteers to help lead field trips and volunteers to help take photographs during the field trips. Contact Penny O'Connor for more information. (Yes, you can enter the photos in the Photo Contest.)

## Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society announces the 1st Annual WCAS Photo Contest

Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2014

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society is having a photo contest! Entries need to be photos illustrating our mission and goals in our area. These include photos of birds, flora or fauna of our region, or photos showing WCAS activities that involve studying and preserving our natural world, including WCAS meetings, events, field trips, and programs educating children and adults. The WCAS Photo Selection Committee will also be looking for photos taken in each of the four seasons.

Post photos you want considered to the [WCAS Ohio Facebook Photo Contest page](#) between September 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014. Only photos properly submitted will be eligible for the contest.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/WCASOhio> for more information, rules and to enter the contest. You will need to have a Facebook account to enter the contest.

**Winning photos will be featured on the home page of our new web site each season, so select your favorites and enter the contest!**

# MORE VOLUNTEER SECTION

## Dike 14 - Doan Brook IBA Research Project

This summer, the Kirtland Bird Club and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society will commence birding surveys at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (formerly known as Dike 14). This citizen science project will occur year-round with a greater focus during migration season. It is expected to last for at least 10 years.

The Port Authority has granted us permission to install 16 T-posts in order to conduct point counts which will prove the importance of this significantly important birding area. Mark Shieldcastle from the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) and Laura Gooch of Cleveland are responsible for organizing the protocol for the point counts at CLNP.

The Survey will consist of 16 points along the trail which runs through CNLP. It will take a total of two hours to walk the whole trail and hit all points. Most groups will not hit all the points, and will use a far shorter amount of time to conduct their part of the survey. This is a wonderful opportunity to conduct a significantly worthwhile citizen science project, aid in the conservation effort, and have the perfect excuse to make frequent birding visits to this beautiful park.

If you are interested in volunteering to conduct point counts for the Dike 14-Doan Brook IBA research project at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, contact: Project Coordinator, Laura Gooch at [lgooch@alum.mit.edu](mailto:lgooch@alum.mit.edu). You can also look for updates on the KBC website: [www.kirtlandbirdclub.org](http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org) or see the project Facebook page [Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Birding Surveys](#)

This is a joint project conducted by [Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society](#) and [Kirtland Bird Club](#).



Right -  
A trail at Cleveland  
Lakefront Nature  
Preserve  
Picture by  
Mary Anne Romito

Left -  
A Northern  
Mockingbird  
© Dave Lewis



## Contact Us

### WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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*Visit our website  
[www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org)*

*Check us out on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/wcasohio](http://www.facebook.com/wcasohio)*

### WCAS Chapter Newsletter

Published 4 times per year  
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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](http://www.facebook.com/wcasohio)

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

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## **Shade Grown Coffee Protects Migratory Birds & Makes a Delicious Cup of Coffee**

*Copyright 2009-2014 Audubon Coffee—Roasted by the Rogers Family Co. [www.auduboncoffeeclub.com](http://www.auduboncoffeeclub.com)*

Coffee - it is perhaps surprising that something so commonplace in our everyday lives, so ubiquitous throughout culture, plays such an important role in the lives of our migratory birds. Facing devastating habitat loss and degradation on their breeding grounds in the United States and Canada as well as on their wintering grounds in Central and South America, migratory birds have found refuge in the lush forest-like environments of traditional coffee plantations. In fact, researchers at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center have revealed that of all agricultural systems in the tropics, traditionally-managed coffee plantations support more species of birds -- over 150 -- than any other type of agriculture.

Yet coffee farming in Latin America is changing. Traditionally, coffee was grown under a canopy of shade trees, providing critical wintering habitat for many species of migratory birds and preserving the rich biodiversity inherent in tropical rainforests. Increasingly, however, industrial coffee farms, where land is cleared of its lush vegetation to grow coffee in full sun, are replacing traditional coffee farms. With this conversion from traditional shade grown to industrial sun-grown coffee comes a corresponding decrease in migratory bird species, and this decrease in species diversity is dramatic -- over 90% fewer bird species are found on sun-grown coffee farms than on shade-grown coffee farms.

By choosing shade grown coffee, coffee drinkers not only help common birds that use shade coffee plantations during the winter like the Baltimore Oriole and Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but also a host of at risk Watchlist species.

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### **Shade Grown Coffee for Sale at WCAS Meetings**

*A Note from Kit Birch*

I am ordering a fresh batch of 12 oz. bags of Audubon shade grown coffee (roasted by the Rogers Family Co.) for sale at our September meeting. WCAS makes a small amount of money on these sales, but more importantly it is a conservation of habitat service. Please see me, Kit Birch, for purchases. The birds will appreciate it!

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Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
4310 Bush Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44109





