



**It's a New Fiscal Year!**  
**Please Remember to Renew Your WCAS Membership!**  
**If You're Not Member, Join NOW! See Insert!**

## Summertime in the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

By Ken Vinciguerra

Step through the turnstile and what immediately grabs your attention is the variety and sheer volume of bird song: Yellow Warblers, Red-winged Blackbirds, Willow Flycatchers, Gray Catbirds, Song Sparrows. And that's just the first few steps. Welcome to Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP) in early summer.

Because of its location on the south shore of Lake Erie and its varied habitats, CLNP has become well known as a vital stopover for abundant numbers of passerine migrants and, in the adjacent lake waters, large rafts of stunning waterfowl. But in the summer, it's the year-round residents and the migrant summer residents who take center stage. Here's just a smattering more of what you'll find.

From the entrance, walking clockwise along the 1.3 mile Perimeter Loop Trail, listen on the first stretch for Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrashers, often singing very close to the trail. A bit further on, it's the Northern Mockingbird you might be lucky enough to hear from its perch in CLNP's SW corner.

As the trail veers northward, start looking up and you're likely to begin seeing and hearing some of the many Baltimore Orioles (and the occasional Orchard Oriole), as well as numerous Barn Swallows and Chimney Swifts acrobatically flying back and forth just above your head.

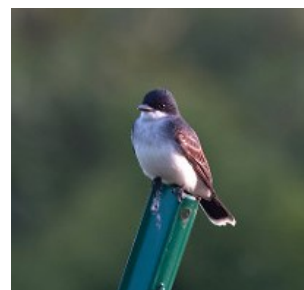
By the time you've made the circuit around the entire Perimeter Trail, your checklist is likely to have grown to include House Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, Warbling Vireos, Great-Crested Flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Kingbirds, Indigo Buntings and maybe even a Black-billed or Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Nice trail! Oh, and really excellent views of our Great Lake.

While still on the Loop Trail, by the way, you might also want to consider detouring (at the NE corner) onto the Northern Harrier Trail, which will lead you into CLNP's interior.

This is a great place to listen for some of its less conspicuous residents. Here, you might be rewarded with the sight or sound of the Wood Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, and Eastern Wood Pewee. It's one of my favorite stretches.

If you too enjoy your experience at CLNP (and who wouldn't?), you might want to consider volunteering with the CLNP Birding Survey. It's sponsored by the

Kirtland Bird Club, with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland as partners. You'll find yourself getting to know the Preserve and its beautiful wildlife (mammals and butterflies included) on an intimate level, enhancing your birding experience while also contributing to important citizen science that will help ensure CLNP can be managed to be a prime bird conservation hotspot well into the future.



Eastern Kingbird on a point stake  
Courtesy Laura Gooch

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## FIELD TRIPS

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**Sunday, August 30, 8:30 a.m.**

### **Conneaut Sandspit**

**Field Trip with Kirtland Bird Club**

**Target Species: Shorebirds**

The Sandspit at Conneaut often attracts an array of exciting shorebirds including Sanderlings, Red Knots, Willets, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlin, and occasionally something even rarer.

Note: Conneaut is about 85 miles from the west side of Cleveland, about 1 hour and 20 minutes or more via I-90 east. The address of the park is 480 Lake Rd.

#### **DIRECTIONS FROM THE CLEVELAND AREA :**

Take I-90 east to Ohio Route 7 Exit 241 toward Conneaut/Andover. Go left onto Route 7. Follow Route 7 for about two miles until you reach State Street. Turn right at State St. . Then go left onto Broad Street. Follow Broad Street to the marina. Once you drive down the hill to the marina, turn left and follow this road until you reach a sandy road at the end of which will take you to the Sandspit.

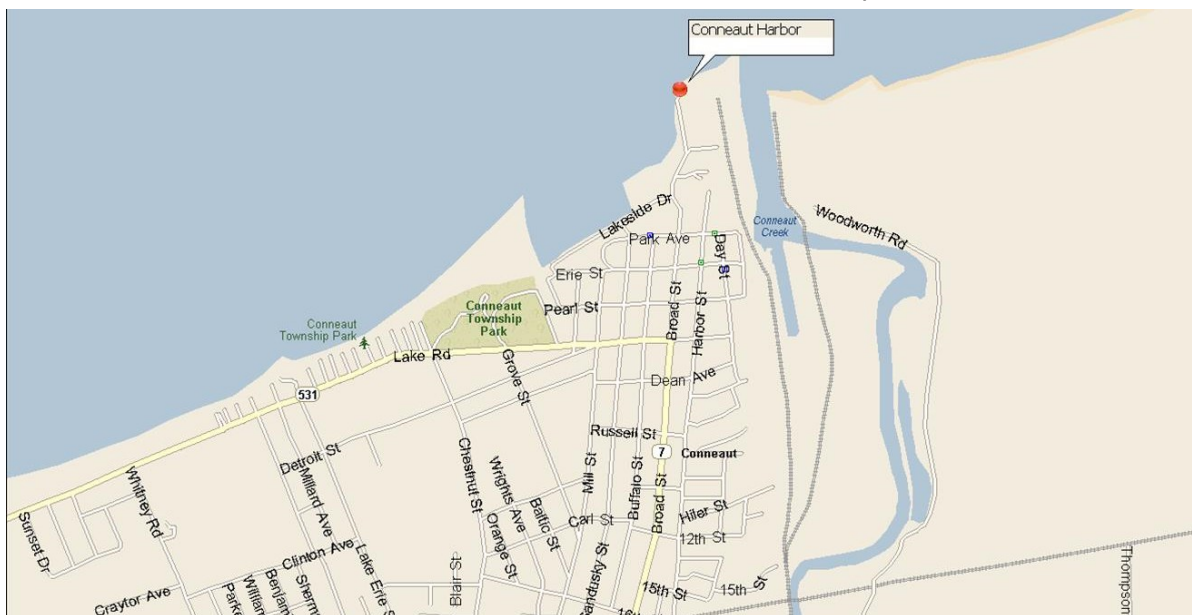
Vehicles drive on the Sandspit when conditions permit. Use judgment about driving the sand road.

Restrooms are by the marina parking area. Restrooms and other amenities are also in Conneaut Township Park, which overlooks the beach.

More about the Conneaut Sandspit is at <http://ohioebirdhotspots.wikispaces.com/Conneaut+Sandspit>

A map of the beach and marina area is at: <http://bit.ly/1NvHZAo>

Use the satellite view to see where the sand road is located. The Sandspit is in the left-side of that view.



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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, August 8  
Saturday, September 12  
Saturday, October 10

Saturday, November 14  
Saturday, December 12  
Saturday, January 9, 2016

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## FIELD TRIPS

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### **Sunday, September 27, 8 a.m. Lake Erie Nature and Science Center**

**Trip Leader: Tim Jasinski (LENSC & WCAS)**

**Target Species: Migrating Warblers**

Birds are migrating south from Canada to their wintering grounds in Central and South America. The woods along Porter Creek are a welcome stopover after a flight across Lake Erie. We will begin this walk at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, go to Lake Erie, and return.

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 18, 9:30 AM West Creek**

**Trip Leader: Kurt Grenig**

**Target Species: Late Fall Migrants**

West Creek Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks has varied terrain and habitat. The Field Trip Leader will be Kurt Grenig, who birds West Creek and is also the founder of the new Southern Cuyahoga Christmas Bird Count Circle. Mid-October is a transitional time, when winter residents are arriving and late-migrating warblers and sparrows are passing through Northeast Ohio.

Meet in the parking lot by the Watershed Stewardship Center. The address is 2277 West Ridgewood Dr., Parma

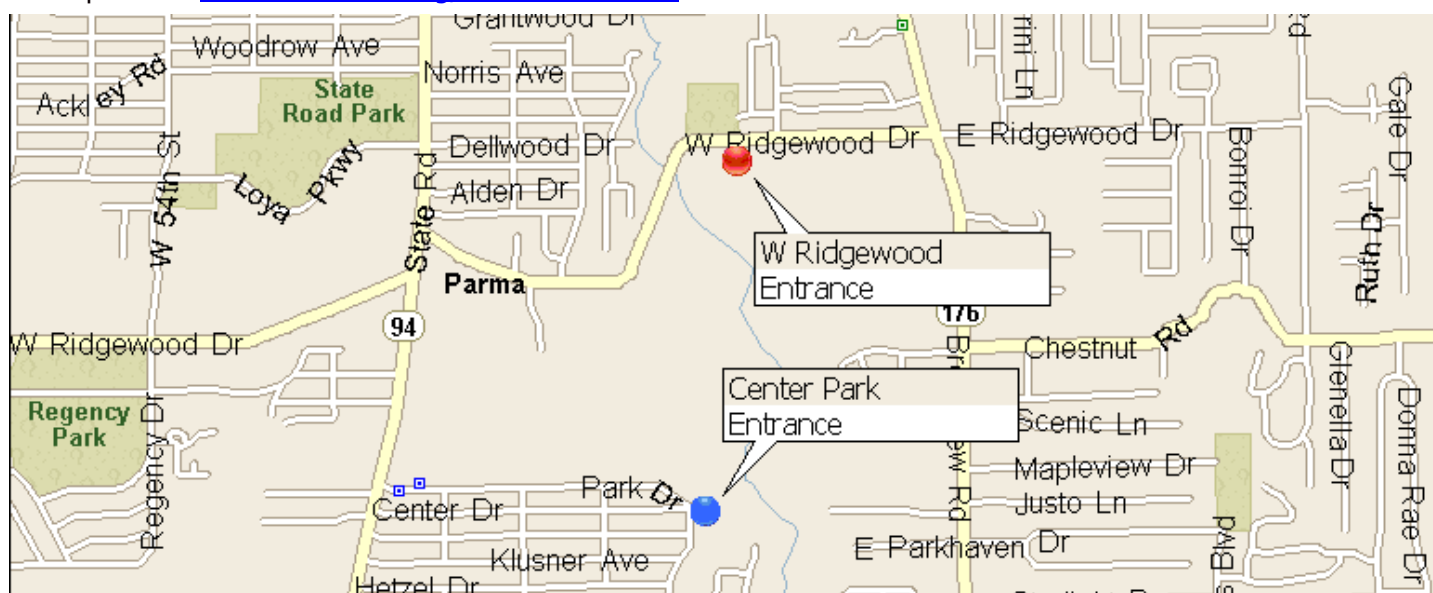
#### **Directions from Cleveland:**

Take Broadview Rd south to Ridgewood Dr. Turn right (west) on Ridgewood Dr. The entrance to West Creek is on the left (south) side of West Ridgewood Dr. approximately one-half mile from Broadview Rd.

#### **Directions from I-480:**

From I-480 exit at State Road and proceed south approximately two miles to West Ridgewood Drive. Turn left on West Ridgewood, proceed approximately one mile to the entrance of the reservation.

A map is at: [www.wcasohio.org/west\\_creek.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/west_creek.htm)



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### **Sneak Preview: WCAS November Field Trip**

WCAS will join the Kirtland Bird Club for a field trip on the Lake Erie shore. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 21 at Rocky River Park, 20250 Beach Cliff Blvd., Rocky River. We hope to see scoters.

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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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**August  
No Program!  
Go Birding!**



Belted Kingfisher (left)  
Google Free

American Avocet (right)  
Taenos.com



**Tuesday, September 1, 7:30 PM**

### ***Plants That Have Shaped & Changed the World***



We know that our world is continually changing, naturally and through man-made influences. Cynthia Druckenbrod, Horticulturalist from the Cleveland Botanical Garden, will share with us, "Plants That Have Shaped & Changed the World". Travelers and explorers carried more than themselves and crew as they voyaged to different continents long ago, some of their cargo were plants. Plants may have been carried from the "homeland" to other lands because they were important or new plant discoveries from distant lands proved useful and brought home. Join us as we find out what plants changed our world.

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**Tuesday, October 6, 7:30 PM**

### ***Kirtland's Warbler: Past, Present and a Vision for the Future***



The Kirtland's Warbler may soon be removed from the Endangered Species List even though it remains one of the rarest birds in North America. But unlike other endangered species that have been delisted, the Kirtland's Warbler will require continued human intervention to ensure its survival. In his program, "Kirtland's Warbler: Past, Present and a Vision for the Future", author William Rapai, will discuss the challenges and a new vision for conservation that is being developed for this unique species.



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### ***Teaser for the November & December Programs***

In November, Amanda Duren will present a program that will inform the audience about the many conservation actions of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI). This promises to be very interesting and educational. If you are interested in conservation, you won't want to miss it.

December will bring us to our annual potluck dinner and a program by Bill Deininger, videographer and WCAS member. Bill will share videos from local birding areas, allowing the audience to 'go birding' from the comfort of their chairs. Don't forget, potluck dinner starts at 6:30 while the program starts at 7:30. Details on both programs will be in the next newsletter.

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### ***Christmas Bird Count, Save the Date Sunday, December 27***

Be part of Audubon's 116th 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 27, 2015 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).



# Zoo and WCAS Connect Families with Nature

by Tom Romito, WCAS Board Member

What do you do with an elementary school, a zoo, and gung-ho community partners? That's easy – start a nature club!

That's exactly what Cleveland Metroparks Zoo last year did when they got a grant from the Association of Zoo Aquariums and the Walt Disney Corporation. The goal was to connect students and families from an underserved nearby school with nature.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District identified Walton School on Cleveland's near west side as the perfect fit for what became the Zoo Nature Club.

Fifty club members, including students from five to 13 years of age and their parents, participated in three after-school activities last fall at the Zoo, Brookside Reservation, and the school and again in the spring. For many students, these were defining moments.



Walton School students enjoy a winter field trip at Brookside Reservation

"They loved playing and rolling around in the grass at Brookside," said Stacey Pantek, Zoo Education Specialist. "This was an outdoor experience they had never had an opportunity to enjoy before."

The culminating event of the school year for the club was beautifying the courtyard at Walton School. Club members gathered after school on April 22 to clean up the courtyard. The Zoo provided tools for the job and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society provided pizza to reward everyone for their efforts.

On May 12, club members gathered again to plant the gardens in the courtyard. Olmsted Falls Garden Club donated perennials, including hostas, daisies, ground covers, and day lilies.

WCAS purchased annuals from a local Boy Scout troop and also purchased native perennials.

WCAS lent another hand by buying and

coordinating the delivery of 150 bags of mulch from Home Depot. Club members laid two inches of mulch on all three gardens once the planting was completed. Once again, everyone enjoyed pizza at the end of the afternoon.

WCAS members coordinated the efforts for the courtyard and supervised club members, some of whom had no gardening experience. WCAS members and friends who helped with the project were Michelle Manzo, Audrey Goebel, Terry Duncan, Tom Romito, and Suzanne Rafferty.

A big payoff for the club came when teachers at the school saw the results of the project. Juliana Cole, Walton's Dean of Student Engagement, said they acknowledged the club's contribution to the beautification of the courtyard.

Juliana also noted the benefit of the partnership. "The club built rapport between club members and the Zoo," she said.

Michelle Manzo noted that the project achieved the goal of connecting families with nature to build lifelong conservation values. "I hope the kids will be able to watch the garden grow and know they made a difference," she said.

So what's the future of the Zoo Nature Club? Stacey Pantek said the Zoo is going for another grant and wants to do something different, but still nature-oriented. "Possibilities include composting, recycling, mural painting and trips to other parks," Stacey said.



Zoo Nature Club members hard at work on the Walton School courtyard



Far left, The courtyard at Walton School is shaping up!

Center, Stacey Pantek introduces Zoo Nature Club members to Darwin, a Children's Python.

Right, Walton School students enjoyed learning how to make bird feeders.



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## VOLUNTEER SECTION

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### Upcoming Opportunities - What We're Doing (You Can Help)

#### Conservation Symposium

**Friday, September 11 from 8 AM - 4 PM at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History**  
***Science by the People: New Challenges, New Opportunities***

The theme is citizen science. We plan on having a table display at the Museum. Volunteers are needed to assist in setting up the display, staffing the table to answer questions as visitors arrive, staff the table at the lunch break and take down the display at the end of the event. WCAS will pay for 2 volunteers to attend the event which includes keynote speakers, a series of presentations and lunch, plus the chance to look around the Museum. Please contact Nancy Howell at 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or [nhowell@cmnh.org](mailto:nhowell@cmnh.org) if you are interested in helping staff the WCAS display AND attend a great symposium!

**Friday, September 18 from 3 PM into the evening**  
**Watershed Stewardship Center at the West Creek Reservation (Parma)**  
**of the Cleveland Metroparks**  
***Backyard Biodiversity Blitz***

Western Cuyahoga Audubon will have a bird display, a bird identification game and will assist in keeping a checklist of birds sighted during the Blitz afternoon. It is a great way to meet the public who may know a little about birds ... and get them jazzed up. Three volunteers would be great to help set-up, work the display, be good at talking with visitors of all ages, assist with bird identification and take down at the end of the event. Our display may be located outdoors depending on the weather. Contact Nancy Howell for more information and to assist. Call 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or [njh24425@hotmail.com](mailto:njh24425@hotmail.com)

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### Nests Needed for a Senior Research Study

A student at Hiram College, under the guidance of Sarah Mabey, Ph.D., is conducting research on the nest composition of American Robins, Northern Cardinals, and Gray Catbirds in response to urbanization. Nest composition will be analyzed across an urban-rural gradient. The student would like our members to assist in collecting ONLY American Robin, Northern Cardinal, and Gray Catbird nests. If you find or have a nest and wish to collect it after the birds have fledged, after August 15, please place the nest in a sealed zip-closure bag.

Provide the following information in the sealed bag with the nest:

Your Name:    Street Address:    Phone Number (optional):    E-mail Address (optional):

Species of bird - Circle one:    American Robin    Northern Cardinal    Gray Catbird

Height of nest from the ground:

Location of nest - Circle one:    Tree    Shrub    Man-made structure

If tree or shrub, list the species if known. If unknown, list tree or shrub as deciduous or evergreen.

If in man-made structure, please list specific structure. Show Additional Notes, if any.

**Please bring the collected nests to the monthly WCAS meeting on Tuesday, September 1.**

Nests will be delivered to Dr. Mabey.

## Contact Us

### WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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Audubon Society

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

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

#### President

WCAS is currently Board run

#### President Emeritus

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

#### Treasurer

Nancy Howell, 440-891-1710

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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

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## **MORE VOLUNTEER SECTION**

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### **Thank You Volunteers for 2014-2015!**

**WCAS field trips, outreach and projects could not be done  
without so many skilled and dedicated volunteers.**

#### **Field Trip Leaders**

Susan Ballard  
Sandy Brown  
Erik Bruder  
Dave Dvorak

Tim Jasinski  
Tammy Martin  
Patty McKelvey  
Liz McQuaid

Gary Neuman  
Mary Anne Romito  
Warren Uxley

#### **Second Saturday Bird Walk Leaders (12 walks!)**

Bill Deininger

Ken Gober

Dave Graskemper

#### **RiverDay CLNP Bird Walk Volunteers**

Jen Brumfield  
Bill Deininger  
Tom Fishburn

Joanne Gorges  
Terry Gorges  
Nancy Howell

Tom Romito

#### **Event Volunteers**

Patti Ambrose  
Nancy Beheim  
Marti Burrows

Tim Colborn  
Nancy Howell  
Penny O'Connor

Joe Reardon

#### **Hospitality at Meetings**

June Cangey  
Sue Sawyer

#### **Walton School Project Volunteers**

Terry Duncan  
Audrey Goebel

Michelle Manzo  
Suzanne Rafferty

Tom Romito

#### **Science Fair Judges**

Michelle Manzo  
Penny O'Connor

#### **CLNP Survey Coordinator**

Laura Gooch

#### **WCAS Board Members, 2104 and 2015**

Suzanne Aldrich  
Kit Birch  
Liz Clingman  
Nora Ebie

Nancy Howell  
Kurt Miske  
Penny O'Connor  
Mary Anne Romito

Tom Romito  
Stan Searles

**And thanks to the staff at Rocky River Nature Center  
for assistance with our programs!**

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

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# Bird Conservation and Shade Grown Coffee

*By Kit Birch*

WCAS will once again be selling Audubon Shade Grown Coffee at our regular meetings in the Fall in an effort to help promote conservation of valuable bird habitat in Central and South America. This is a small way we as individuals can help simply in our choice of coffee brands. Those labeled Organic, Rainforest Alliance Certified, and/or Bird Friendly are all better options for saving bird habitat than regular sun coffee. As you can see by the diagram below, there really is a difference that is readily observable. Which farm would you live in if you were a bird?



Shade Grown Coffee

- Grows slower; Tastes better
- Requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides
  - Supports much greater biodiversity
  - Sustains healthy ecosystems
- Allows farmers economic diversification



Sun Coffee Farm

- Grows faster
- Requires more water, fertilizer and pesticides
  - Supports much less biodiversity
  - Degrades ecosystems

