



Christmas Bird Count Scheduled for 12/27/2015

By Nancy Howell

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ..." gaah, another Christmas carol in my head. Not because of the upcoming holidays, but because of the **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**. Leaves are just barely turning color, yet I am thinking ahead to the Christmas Bird Count for the west side of Cleveland which will be held on **Sunday, December 27**. This is also known as the Lakewood Count since the center point of our count circle is located in Lakewood.

For those familiar or unfamiliar with what a Christmas Bird Count is, it is the longest running "citizen science" project with over 100 years of data. Data collected goes to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's database giving researchers a glimpse of bird species that are around at the end of December. Each year is different but when data over many years is analyzed trends begin to appear and questions raised. Are the birds hanging around in the winter because the weather has gotten milder? Is food more prevalent? Are species seen where they have not been seen before? Are we just better birders?

Last year the Lakewood Christmas Bird Count tallied 78 species on count day with 2 additional species during count week. I know we can do great things for 2015!

It is NOT too early to sign up to participate in the Christmas Bird Count. The portion of the west side this count takes in a lot of the western lakefront going slightly into Lorain County around the Avon Lake, Avon and North Ridgeville, south to the northern border of Strongsville and east to Brooklyn and some of Parma Hts. The WCAS website,

http://www.wcasohio.org/christmas_bird_count1.htm shows the count circle and a list of areas needing coverage. We can ALWAYS have people walk around their neighborhoods, small parks, cemeteries and any other place to count birds as long as it is within the circle.

Some groups or individuals choose to be out early in the morning, some a little later. Some individuals go "owling" in the pre-dawn hours or later that evening. All species as well as individual birds are counted, yes this does include House Sparrows, Rock Pigeons and European Starlings. Some groups and individuals walk in areas, others drive from spot to spot. No matter what mode of transportation, it is great to get as much of our count circle covered as possible. There is even the opportunity to tally the birds at your feeder that day ... but remember it HAS to be within our count circle.

As a participant you may consider being out part of the day or all day. The Christmas Bird Count is free, but if you would like to make a donation to National Audubon Society to help in compiling the information which will be available electronically only, you may do so at our "thank you" dinner. A catered dinner will be held at the Rocky River Nature Center beginning at 5:30 PM that Sunday where we will tally the species and initial numbers.

Please contact Nancy Howell at 440-891-1710 (home), njh24425@hotmail.com or 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 (work) or nhowell@cmnh.org for more information, to sign up for an area and for further information about the "thank you" dinner. Check out the WCAS website or the National Audubon website for additional information about Christmas Bird Counts - <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

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FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 21, 8:30 a.m. **Rocky River Park**

Trip Leaders: Rich and Karen Kassouf

Target Species: Scoters and other Waterfowl, plus Gulls

Waterfowl migration can be an exciting time on the shores of Lake Erie. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society will bird with Kirtland Bird Club at Rocky River Park, Rocky River. We will possibly explore other hotspots along Lake Erie as well.

Directions: Rocky River Park is at 20250 Beach Cliff Blvd. This is a small city park in a group of residential streets along Lake Erie. It is high on a bluff, affording good views of the water. One of its amenities is heated restrooms year-round.

If approaching from the east via Detroit Road, you will cross a bridge over the Rocky River. Bear right at the west end of the bridge past the large pink building, then bear left and find yourself on Beach Cliff Boulevard. Rocky River Park will be several blocks down on the right, at Parkside Dr.

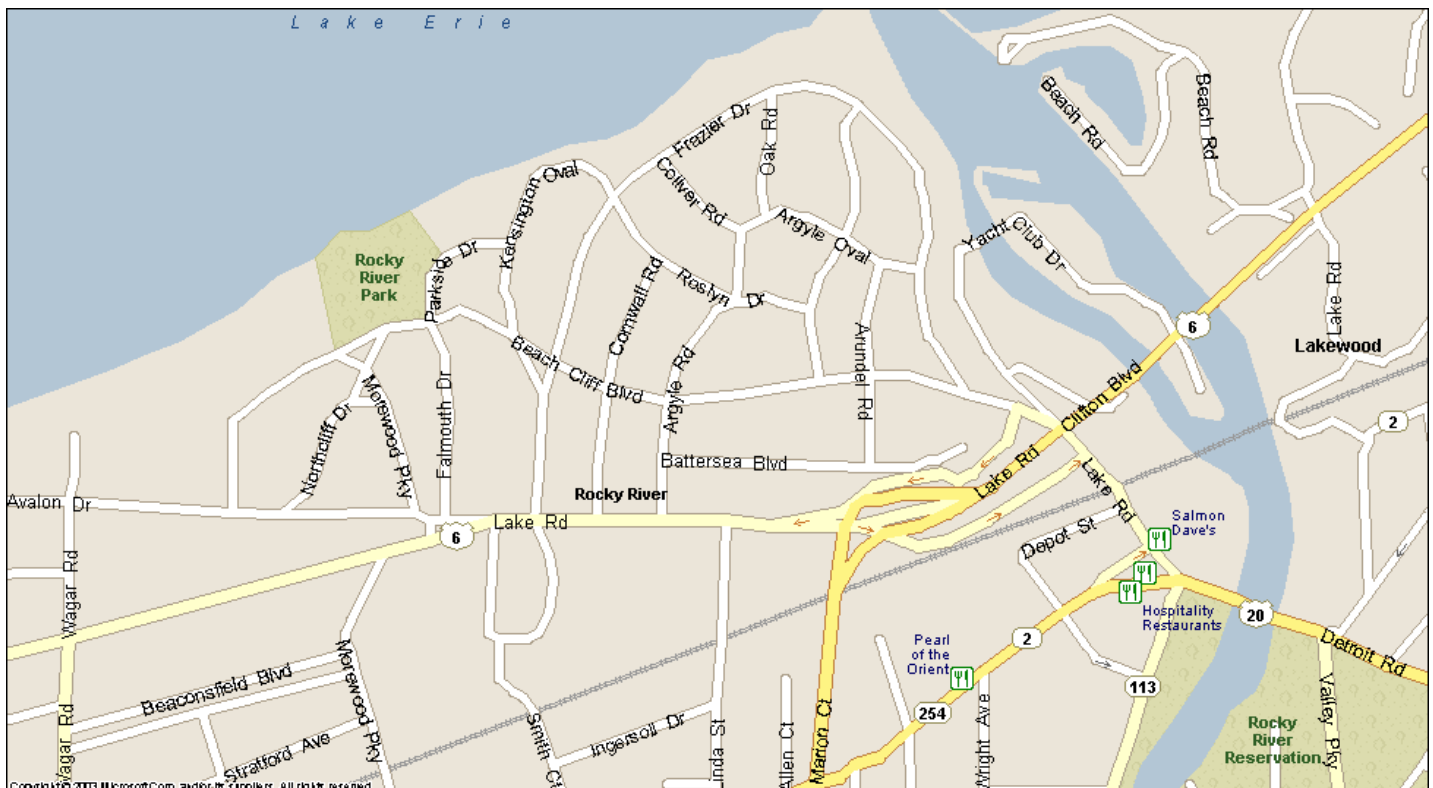
From east along Lake Rd/State Route 6: Turn north on Argyle Rd., Cornwall Rd. or Kensington Rd. At stop sign at Beach Cliff Blvd., turn west. At stop sign at Beach Cliff Blvd. and Parkside Dr., turn right (north) and make a quick left into the park.

From east via I-90/OH2 go to Hilliard Blvd. Exit (Exit 162) in Rocky River. Go right on Westway, then right (north) on Lakeview. Go right on Detroit for a very short distance, the left (north) on Smith Court. Follow to Beach Cliff and turn left. Rocky River Park will be on the right at Parkside Dr.

From the west along Lake Road/State Route 6: Go north on Wagar Rd. (a.k.a. W. 210) to Avalon, East on Avalon and North (left) on Beach Cliff and watch for Rocky River Park on the left.

From the west, via I-90/OH2, go to the Detroit Road Exit (Exit 161). Continue on OH2E/OH254E Detroit Rd. to Wagar Rd. Go North on Wagar Rd. to Avalon, East on Avalon, and North (left) on Beach Cliff. Park will be on the left.

Map and directions are at: http://www.wcasohio.org/rocky_river_parks.htm



FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, December 27 116th Christmas Bird Count for WCAS

Details for this field trip are in the lead story on Page 1.

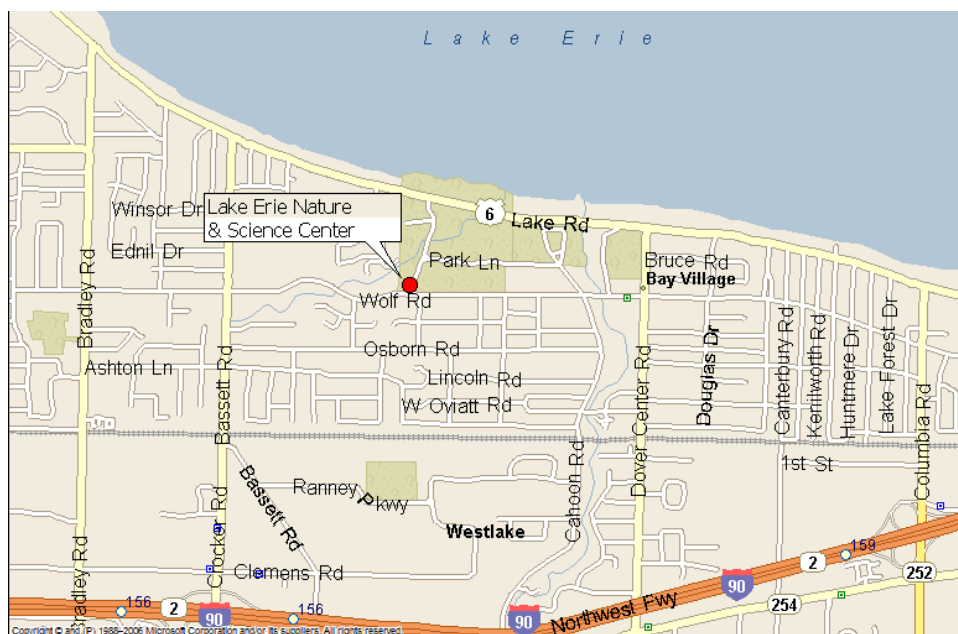
Sunday, January 31, 8:30 AM Lake Erie Science and Nature Center

Trip Leader: Tim Jasinski
Target Species: Waterfowl and Gulls

Winter at Huntington Reservation can be surprisingly birdy. We will bird the woods and fields near Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, and work our way to Lake Erie. A variety of waterfowl and gulls are a good possibility on the lake shore. Bring a scope if you have one.

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center is located at 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village.

A map is at: [http://www.wcasohio.org/Lake Erie Nature and Science Center.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/Lake_Erie_Nature_and_Science_Center.htm)



Winter Birding at Huntington Beach
Photo Courtesy Penny O'Connor

SAVE THE DATE - February 13 Field Trip

For February 2016 our field trip will be the Second Saturday Bird walk. We will take part in the Great Back Yard Bird Count. The date is Saturday, February 13. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted.

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

Saturday, February 13
Saturday, March 12
Saturday, April 9

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. Guests are always welcome to programs and to introduce them to the Audubon mission. For a map & directions see www.wcasohio.org.

Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 PM

“Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative: Bringing Organizations Together,”



The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) is a collaboration of more than 100 non-profit groups, businesses, and state and federal government agencies, that are working together to ensure the conservation and effective management of birds in Ohio. In her program, “Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative: Bringing Organizations Together,” Amanda Duren, will share with us how OBCI works to build strong and diverse conservation partnerships. Some of OBCI's priority programs, including Ohio Lights Out, a highway nestbox trail for American kestrels, and encouraging forest management for birds will be discussed.

Tuesday, December 1, 7:30 PM

“Birding Without Binoculars With Bill”

POTLUCK AND SILENT AUCTION



This is Audubon's potluck dinner. We begin early for dinner, but the program is at 7:30 PM.

Come on an adventure to watch, laugh and enjoy our many feathered friends. In the program, ***“Birding Without Binoculars With Bill”***, videographer and WCAS member Bill Deininger shares videos from birding areas in Northern Ohio. Enjoy the antics of our avian acrobats from the comfort of our chairs as we watch and listen to local favorites and rarities, as well as observe interesting behaviors, some of which are sure to have you laughing. Join us!

As you probably know, Bill leads the Second Saturday Bird Walk at RRNC along with Ken Gober and Dave Graskemper.

For the silent auction, you are invited to bring your gently-used or new nature-themed items. Bring a few bucks at the same time, and take home some treasures for yourself or for holiday gifts. Proceeds benefit WCAS.

For the potluck, bring a tasty dish to share. WCAS provides soft drinks, shade-grown coffee, ham and turkey.

Tuesday, January 5, 7:30 PM

“Conserving Ceruleans in Ohio”



The Cerulean Warbler is a species of concern throughout the Appalachian region, including Ohio. Laura Kearns, Wildlife Research Biologist with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, will present information about the species' life history, probable reasons for decline, and conservation efforts being made throughout its migration and wintering range in her program, “Conserving Ceruleans in Ohio”. Additionally, Laura will profile the new Cerulean Warbler Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which enlists private landowners to manage their forests for the Cerulean Warbler.

(left) Picture courtesy Audubon.org via Google free images

National Environmental News from Audubon

No 2016/2017 Lease Sales in the Chukchi & Beaufort Seas

From the Audubon National Press Release

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Today (Oct. 16) the Obama Administration announced that it would not hold lease sales in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas scheduled for 2016 and 2017 under the current five-year offshore oil and gas leasing program for 2016-2017. Audubon Alaska Policy Director Jim Adams issued the following statement: "This common sense decision is good news for the Arctic Ocean and the people, birds and other wildlife that depend on it. Given Shell's recent withdrawal from the Chukchi, the lease sales were likely to be unsuccessful and costly to the public. We can't drill for oil safely in the Arctic Ocean, and taking a loss or subsidizing companies to do it would just add insult to injury. For similar reasons, the Department of Interior's decision not to extend Shell and Statoil's current leases was the right thing to do."

Now in its second century, the National Audubon Society is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in conservation. Audubon Alaska, a state office of the National Audubon Society, has worked to conserve birds in the state since 1977. Contact: Jim Adams, jadams@audubon.org, 907-276-7034.



Photo: NASA/Kathryn Hansen

More Environmental News

On Plastic Fibers and the Environment, an Editor's Note

In case you missed it, the Saturday, October 17 Plain Dealer had a small article in its *Newswatch* column on the *Nation & World* page about plastic fibers. According to the article, it is estimated that 245 million tons of plastic are produced annually around the planet. That works out to about 70 pounds of plastic *per person! Per year!* Now a study done by researchers from UC Davis and Hasanuddin University (Indonesia), reported in the online journal *Scientific Reports*, indicates that about 25% of samples of fish from the California and Indonesia markets contained plastic debris in the fish meat. Bon appetit?

Carbon Offset Project Update

Money generated through this project will go toward habitat preservation & restoration in the Rocky River IBA or other area within the range of WCAS. Consider contributing to the Carbon Offset Project when you take a birding trip. The WCAS website has more information & a form to calculate the amount you wish to donate. Click on Field Trip then Carbon Offset Project.

Total collected to date - \$695.26

Welcome New Members



Bob Boddy
Susan Bohne
Kathy Murphy
Jean & Michael Paulus
Marie Robbins
Bob Skully

VOLUNTEER SECTION

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, 2016 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.



Left - One of the displays from last year's Science Fair

Above - Students at the 2014 Science Fair

Pictures courtesy Of Penny O'Connor

Thank You to Our Recent Volunteers

Thanks go out to the following WCAS members who spent time interacting with visitors to our displays at events. Liz Clingman and Nancy Howell staffed the display at the Conservation Symposium on Friday, September 11th. Over 200 people attended the symposium and many viewed the display.

On Friday, September 18 Kit Birch, Liz Clingman and Nancy Howell staffed our display and bird identification game at the Backyard Biodiversity Blitz at West Creek Reservation. For a Friday late afternoon event approximately 250 people came by the display, learned about WCAS, played the bird I.D. game and had a great time. Those of us staffing the table also had a good time interacting with and educating visitors.

Contact Us

WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website
www.wcasohio.org

Check us out on Facebook
www.facebook.com/wcasohio

WCAS Chapter Newsletter

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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

WCAS is currently Board run

President Emeritus

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Field Trip Coordinator

Penny O'Connor, 216-676-4859

Directors at Large

Liz Clingman

Kit Birch

General Announcements/News

9th Annual Young Birders Conference Saturday, November 7

Any young birders in your nest? The Ohio Young Birders Club, founded through Black Swamp Bird Observatory, is having their 9th Annual Young Birders Conference at the Rocky River Nature Center on Saturday, November 7, 2015. The Ohio Young Birders Club encourages youngsters, ages 12 through 18, to be involved with the birding community and become conservation leaders. There are several chapters throughout Ohio with the young birders involved with field trips and bird identification, conservation projects, fundraising and more.

Information about and registration for The Ohio Young Birders Club and Conference are located at <http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/oybc-annual-conference.html>

Audubon Chapter Services Announces Free Birding App (from an email sent by Chapter Services)

We are excited to announce that today Audubon has released an updated version of the Audubon Bird Guide app and it's now FREE to bird lovers nationwide.

With 821 species profiles and 3200-plus world-renowned bird photos, Audubon's award-winning app instantly turns any mobile device into the most trusted field guide in North America.

To download the Audubon Bird Guide, go to: <http://www.audubon.org/apps>

The free app also provides a great new way to engage more people in becoming active participants in conservation action. Find a toolkit of resources on Audubon Works to help you share the free app with your members and supporters. The toolkit includes tips and tricks for using the app, email and social copy and images, ecards, a poster, and a captivating video.

You're invited to the WCAS Board Meeting! Monday, November 16 at 6PM

The next WCAS Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 16 at 6 PM at the Panera restaurant off of Tiedeman Rd. The organization is always ready for new and innovative ideas from our members. WCAS would always like to do more, with more involvement and there are small as well as bigger items that can be accomplished to strengthen the organization. Contact Nancy Howell if you would like to attend the Board meeting. Njh24425@hotmail.com or nhowell@cmnh.org.

Reports of Past Field Trips

Reports with pictures of recent (and not so recent) field trips and other activities are on the website. From the home page, click on the 'Pictures and Reports' icon in the list on the left. Field trip reports include bird lists as well as trip highlights and more!

Report on the Second Saturday Bird Walk, September 12 7 Birders, 31 Species

By Penny O'Connor

Rainy day birding, with a bit of wading on the flooded paths. The wetland closest to Frostville hosted more than 70 Wood Ducks, while in the field nearby were 50 American Goldfinches. The pond by the Nature Center parking lot had a Pied-billed grebe. Swainson's Thrushes joined flocks of American Robins. Black-capped Chickadees followed Dave Graskemper for a chance to eat sunflower seeds from his hand. Editor's Note to amateur birders - You, too can have black-capped eating from your hand. Always fun on these walks!

Picture (right) courtesy of Penny O'Connor



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



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

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

