Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society

Nov 2007- Jan 2008



www.wcasohio.org

Why Migratory Birds Are Crazy For Coffee

By Kit Birch

No, they are not hanging around your neighborhood coffee house trying to steal a sip or two. Many of those wonderful migratory birds we strive to see through our spring and summer are now heading to places that grow the beans necessary for one of our favorite beverages...coffee. In the midst of altered and shrinking habitat, they have found a sanctuary in the forest-like environment of traditional. shade coffee plantations.

Bird surveyors and biologists have found that these plantations support over 150 species of birds—a greater number than is found in other agricultural habitats, and is exceeded only in undisturbed tropical forests. This includes good populations of migrants that prefer or are restricted to forest habitats, such as:

American Redstart Scarlet and Western Tanager Yellow-throated and Solitary Vireo Wood Thrush Black-throated Green Warbler Ovenbird and others

Not only are these types of farms good for birds and other species, they also require less chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides and are less susceptible to drought and problems with soil erosion.

So why in the world aren't all coffee plantations grown in the traditional (shade) way? Well, as you may have already guessed, it has a lot to do with economics. Beginning in the 1970s, major changes occurred in the coffee industry. Varieties of coffee that would grow when planted densely in the sun were developed, and major portions of cropland were converted to these "sun coffees". While they do have higher yields, they also have much more negative impacts

on wildlife and the environment. For example, when coffee plantations are converted to sun production, the diversity of birds plummets. Full-sun coffee farms host only a fraction-25 to as little as 5 percent—of the number of bird species found on nearby shade farms!

Did you know that next to oil, coffee is the most valuable legal export in the world, with North America accounting for over a third of consumption? The good news is that coffee drinkers can make a huge contribution to bird conservation by selecting brands produced from shade-grown plants. It may be a bit more expensive than sun coffee, but I think you'll agree that these birds are worth it.

WCAS offers Audubon Shade Coffee for sale at our meetings, and it is also available at local grocery stores. Remember, the holidays are fast approaching and two mugs with a bag of gourmet shadegrown coffee in a basket makes a great gift.

Sources:

"International Migratory Bird Day" publications

"Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center" Fact Sheet No. 1.

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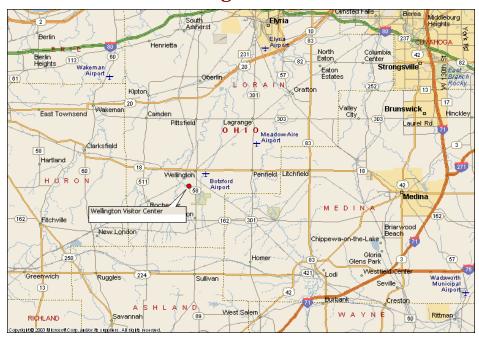
Field Trips

Saturday, November 10, 2007...9:00 AM...Wellington Visitor Center

For this field trip we will join with the Black River Audubon Society to visit Wellington Reservation and observe waterfowl and late fall migrants. We will meet at the new Lorain County Metroparks Visitor Center there.

Directions:

Follow SR 18 west into Wellington toward SR 58 in the center of town. Turn left on SR 58 and follow it south to Jones Rd./CR 5 just south of the city. Turn right onto Jones Rd. End at 535 Jones Rd.



Saturday, December 29, 2007...Christmas Bird Count

Will we have a winter finch irruption? Lots of tootling red-breasted nuthatches? Gulls galore on Lake Erie? We will find out during the Lakewood (West Side) Christmas Bird Count. Our center point is in Lakewood, but our count circle goes along the Cleveland Lakefront, south to the northern border of Strongsville, east to parts of Parma and Parma Hts., and west to just past the Cuyahoga County border. Observers can be out all or part of the day, even out early to do some owling. Groups will gather at 12 noon for a chili potluck lunch at the Rocky River Nature Center, then have just enough time to bird other areas before it gets dark. Donations of chili, breads, desserts, salads, etc. will be appreciated.

We have several areas that have been birded regularly by groups and we can connect you with a group, or there are other areas which haven't been covered in which birders are needed. It can be your neighborhood **if** it is in our count circle.

So if you would like to get yourself, family, or friends out...then contact Nancy Howell, CBC Coordinator for Western Cuyahoga Audubon, at nhowell@cmnh.org or 440-891-1710.



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Field Trips

Saturday, January 26, 2008...8:00 AM...Horseshoe Pond

We will have a special field trip to the **Horse-shoe Pond/Tree Farm trail** in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. <u>Mark Nolls from the Greater Akron Audubon Society will be our guide</u>. This is a 2.75 mile unpaved trail, so you will need sturdy boots. If there is snow, the evergreens will be beautiful. Come join us!

Directions:

Take Rt. 303 to Riverview Rd. and turn south onto it. Turn right onto Major Rd. and continue to Horseshoe Pond, which will be on the North side of Major Rd.



Contact Us

WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website www.wcasohio.org



WCAS Chapter Newsletter

Published 4 times per year in January, April, July and October by the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society www.wcasohio.org is the

www.wcasohio.org is the official Chapter Web Site.

WCAS Board Meetings held at 6:30 pm prior to each program at Rocky River Nature Center. General public and WCAS members welcome.

President

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352 Treasurer

Nancy Howell, 440-891-1710 **Newsletter Editor** Kit Birch, 440-238-0153

Webmaster

Mary Anne Romito, 216-741-2352 **Conservation Chair**

Terri Martincic, 440-243-4536

Directors at Large

Liz Clingman, 440-234-7784 Penny O' Connor Kathleen Tiburzi

Programs

All WCAS programs are free and 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 and directions see www.wcasohio.org.

Tuesday, November 6, 2007...7:30 PM

<u>Dave Lewis and Laurie Boylan</u>, Western Cuyahoga Audubon members, had the opportunity to travel to Ecuador to visit the Reserva Las Gralarias and the Mindo Valley. In their program, "An Antpitta Extravaganza", Dave and Laurie will present a

photo-journal of their trip including maps showing the areas covered, Ecuadorian scenery, and many (but not all) of the more than 300 species of birds seen.

Tuesday, December 4, 2007...6:30 PM...Potluck Dinner

Join us for our WCAS's annual festive pot luck dinner at which guests bring a side dish, salad or dessert, with the meat and beverages provided by WCAS. We will have a silent auction during dinner, so bring new or gently used items to donate for this fun fundraiser.



Tuesday, December 4, 2007...7:30 PM

We will be viewing the movie "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill", winner of the "Best Independent Film" award from the International Wildlife Film Festival, and the Geneses Award for "Outstanding Documentary Feature" from the Humane Society of the United States. It is about non-native

parrots (cherry-headed conures) in part of a San Francisco neighborhood where some people want the birds to stay and others want them removed. Whether two-winged or two legged, each character in the movie has its own personality. Reviewers say it is a "must see"!

Tuesday, January 8, 2008...7:30 PM



2008 is the Year of the Frog, or will it be the year of the frog's disappearance? Join Katherine Krynak, Cleveland Metropark's

Zoo Rainforest amphibian caretaker, on her journeys to save amphibians. Her program, "Is the Global Amphibian Crisis a Global Warning?", will inform us about the rapid extinctions of amphibians, how these extinctions affect our lives and what every individual can do to help change this course. We all can make a difference.

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WCAS supports Audubon Ohio's priorities

by Tom Romito, President, WCAS

Recently, I participated in a reception in Lakewood hosted by the Audubon Ohio Board of Directors, of which I am a member. Influential people from Northeast Ohio attended the reception, which was intended to encourage their support for Audubon Ohio's efforts to educate Ohioans about nature and advocate for conservation.

During the reception, board members Jack Rupert and Sam Speck, and Jerry Tin-

ianow, Executive Director of Audubon Ohio, spoke on conservation issues in Ohio. During the question and answer session that followed their remarks. I asked Jerry to state Audubon Ohio's priorities so we would all know where to focus our support. Without missing a beat, Jerry said Audubon Ohio's priorities are IBA protection, Great Lakes protection, global warming, and educating kids. Needless to say, I was pleased to hear Jerry's list of priorities be-

cause these are areas which the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society supports.

As you know, protection of the Rocky River IBA has been the focal point of our conservation program for the past two years and will continue to be for at least three more years. The vast majority of our chapter resources are targeted at the activities that support the IBA project, which are monitoring birds and vegetation in the watershed and engaging public officials about making wise land use decisions.

Audubon Ohio's next two priorities are also of concern to WCAS. At our meetings, we advocate for protection of the Great Lakes by encouraging citizens to seek legislative support of the Great Lakes Compact. We also advocate for a reduction of global warming by encouraging others to take actions to reduce the accumulation of greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide) emissions in the atmosphere.

"Audubon Ohio's priorities are IBA protection, Great Lakes protection, global warming, and educating kids" per Jerry Tinianow, Audubon Ohio, President

WCAS has been addressing Audubon Ohio's last priority, educating kids, for many years. Since 1985, WCAS has been sponsoring Audubon Adventures in classrooms. In the late 1990's, chapter members began participating in Science Olympiad and School Days at Edgewater in order to acquaint kids with nature. More recently, WCAS became a member of the Environmental Education Collaborative, which seeks to protect Dike 14 in order

to offer urban youths access to the facility, where they will learn about water quality, land use, geography, plants, and wildlife, and thus have opportunities to better understand and connect with nature.

As you can see, WCAS supports the priorities of Audubon Ohio, our parent organization. We are a team player and strong supporters of Audubon Ohio's mission.

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History of Western Cuyahoga Audubon

Following is a portion of the bulletized history of WCAS, taken from Annual Reports, chapter newsletters, and minutes of board meetings and membership meetings that is on our website at http://www.wcasohio.org/history_of_western_cuyahoga_audu.htm.:

- August 15, 1975: Concerned citizens hold an organizational meeting at the home of Mac and Carol Ball in Berea. WCAS publishes the first edition of the chapter newsletter with Carol Ball as editor, a position she will hold until 2002.
- September 23, 1975: WCAS holds its first membership meeting at Lechner School in Berea.
- December 1975: WCAS conducts its first Christmas Bird Count, a tradition that continues to the present.
- February 1976: WCAS's first logo appears on the chapter newsletter – the head of a <u>Red-tailed</u> <u>Hawk, designed by Jon Bailey.</u>
- October 1, 1976: WCAS receives its <u>charter</u> <u>from the National Audubon Society.</u>
- October 5, 1976: WCAS changes the day of its monthly membership meetings from the last Thursday of the month to the first Tuesday of the month.
- May 10, 1977: WCAS changes the start time of its monthly membership meetings from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- November 29, 1977: WCAS board advocates saving Lake Abrams from development.
- February 1978: WCAS approves a patch bearing the head of a <u>Pileated Woodpecker</u>, <u>designed by Don Altemus</u>.
- September 2, 1980: The WCAS membership votes to amend its constitution to eliminate the restriction on officers serving in the same office for no more than three years.
- January 1981: WCAS completes a four-month sales campaign of 100 copies of Roger Tory Peter-

son's book, A Field Guide to the Birds, Eastern Edition.

- March 3, 1981: The WCAS membership rejects consideration of participation in the National Audubon Society's annual bird-athon.
- Sometime in 1982: Past President Jim Hamilton and John Edwards, Conservation Chair, present testimony to U.S. Congressman Dennis Eckhart in Cleveland on the Clean Air Act (Congress did not amend the Clean Air Act until 1990 in part because President Reagan's administration placed economic goals ahead of environmental goals).
- January 1982: WCAS lists a phone number in the Cleveland phone directory to offer chapter information to the public.
- October 1982: President Steve Bowell dies and is replaced by Tony Hess, who serves the second year of Steve's term and the following two years. Tony begins the process of attaining non-profit status.
- 1982-1983: WCAS participates in the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas I.
- March 6, 1984: WCAS begins holding its membership meetings at the Rocky River Interpretive Center, which a month later is renamed the Rocky River Nature Center.
- January 1985: The National Audubon Society launches <u>Audubon Adventures</u>. WCAS begins to participate with Paula Lozano as Education Chair.
- June 1985: WCAS holds its first annual picnic and plant exchange at Mastick picnic area.

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Conservation News

The National Environmental Policy Act and the Importance of Writing Comments September 2007 Audubon Armchair Activist

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) passed in 1970, was a quiet little law that has had huge impacts. NEPA requires that federal agencies assess the environmental impacts of significant activities such as the construction of airports, buildings, military complexes, and highways; parkland purchases; and other proposed federal activities. Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), which are assessments of the likelihood of impacts from alternative courses of action, are required from all federal agencies

and are the most visible NEPA requirement. Once federal actions are proposed, the public has the right to comment on the course of action, either at hearings or through written comments or both. These comments must be reviewed, catalogued and considered carefully as the agency moves forward with proposed actions. Many environmentally destructive projects have been halted or significantly changed because of NEPA and the comments and public action it engendered.

Family



Chapter Supporter Application

Why wait! Join WCAS as a chapter supporter.

1 or 2 people

Chapter Membership year: September 1 through August 31

Chapter Dues give you our **Check one**:

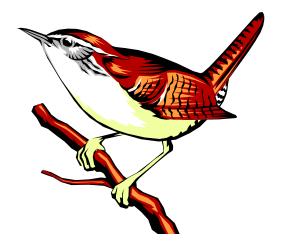
newsletter, a nameta a window cling.	g and Dues			\$20		\$35	
Additional Donation (C	Check one)	\$5	\$10	\$20	Other \$	Total enclosed \$	
NAME							
ADDRESS							
CITY/STATE/ZIP							
TELEPHONE							
EMAIL ADDRESS							

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



Welcome New Members

Suzanne Aldrich Ralph Botterman John & Patty Cameron **Betty Carson** Marshall Graham Hiroshi & Michiko Hirakawa **Bob Hopp** Dorothy Keck Mary Carol Lucic Mary Matonis Kathleen Paskert Carrie Sheehan Carol Thompson **Charles Werner** Carol Wilson Connie Workman



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