



**Audubon
Society
of Greater
Cleveland**



**Annual Report to Members
For the Year 2025**

P. O. Box 391037, Solon, Ohio 44139 www.clevelandaudubon.org

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We're always looking for enthusiastic volunteers with an interest in the environment, birds, and ecology! If you have experience in environmental science, land management, finance, public relations, social media, or none of the above, let us know!

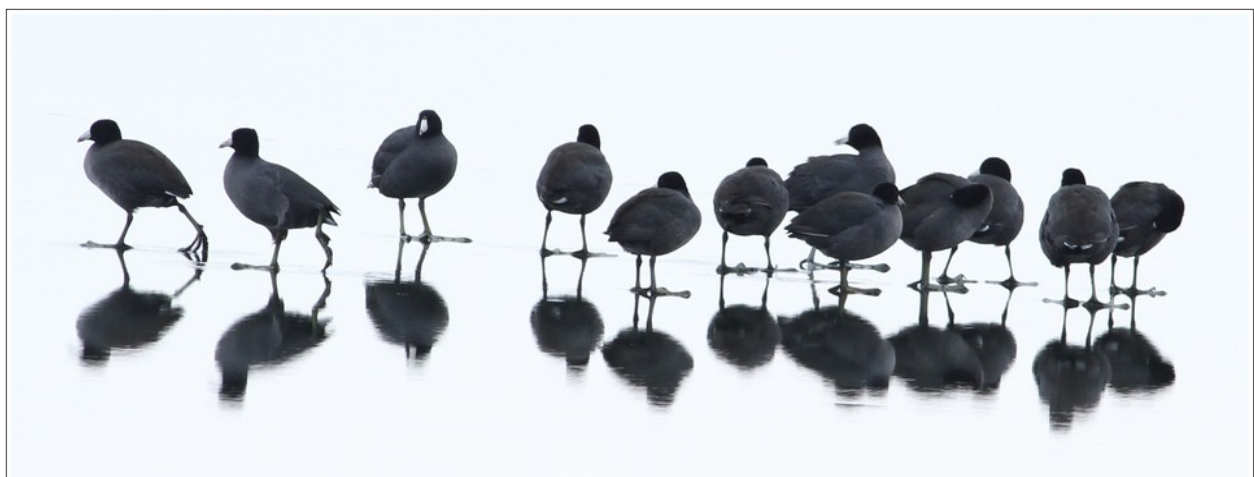
Want to get involved?

Contact us at info@clevelandaudubon.org.



The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland (ASGC) promotes the conservation and appreciation of birds and other wildlife through habitat preservation and educational activities.

ASGC, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, has over 1,400 member households throughout the Greater Cleveland area, owns over 500 acres of protected land, and is one of northeast Ohio's oldest continuously operating environmental organizations.





President's Report June 6, 2026

Your Audubon chapter has been extremely busy! We are striving to make the best use of the amazing talent, passion and the generous amount of time offered by our volunteers that keep this organization moving forward, working to improve and restore the natural health of our small section of the world.

Matt Valencic and his Education Committee have touched hundreds of lives through education programs, speaking engagements and in-the-field demonstrations. All who attend have expressed gratitude for providing this vital service. We greatly appreciate Matt for all his volunteer time and his numerous encounters with people interested in nature. Also, **Matt Valencic** and his invasive species control crew have vastly enhanced the habitats of our sanctuaries, constantly beating back the relentless growth of non-native, invasive species. There has been a wondrous change in the health of our fields and forest. We have Matt and his crew to thank for this transformation.

Our editor of the eagerly anticipated *House Wren* newsletter, **Alison DeBroux**, must be thanked as we stand in awe of how she can convert bits and pieces of news and stories into a wonderful publication. I've received numerous comments from readers saying they enjoy reading every article. Alison continues to serve as interim secretary for which I would be lost without her. I am in debt to her willingness to continue above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you to **Cathy Green** who excellently keeps our Facebook account up to date with interesting pictures, stories, and events. **Sharon Swaney**, as our webmaster, is always ready, willing and able to repair, restore, and protect our website. In addition, she offers advice on how to keep the website up to date. Thank you to Sharon, for all her behind-the-scenes work.

Jim DeBroux has persevered in the daunting and tedious task of examining and organizing our historical documents. He has digitized and uploaded countless bits from decades of historical information and it will soon be available electronically. Thank you to Jim for bringing us into the modern era of electronically available archives of information.

Stephanie Demyan, our treasurer, carefully and accurately maintains records of our finances. We thank her for her professional and clearly understood reports. We are fortunate to have her services which keep us up-to-date with all the filings and payments, and collection of funds. Thank you to **Roy Day**, who has stepped up to assist Stephanie with her tasks and especially for getting us ready to accept donations and payments "on-line".

We are lucky to have **John Lillich** offering his experiences, knowledge and talent in managing our organization and especially as it pertains to the Hach-Otis Sanctuary. John's interpretive naturalist walks through Hach-Otis are enjoyed by all who attend. Thank you to John for his diligence, and for sharing his passion for wildlife and for setting aside land to accomplish this.

Kenny Kresina also has a passion for wildlife. He is constantly making adjustments in land management to enhance our native wildlife. Thank you to Kenny for keeping our sanctuaries healthy, especially with regard to the Molnar Sanctuary.

Jane Ellison's *Nature in My Backyard* program has been so successful that it out-grew all volunteer staff to grow with it. It now has gone to the state level and is involving Master Gardeners statewide. Our chapter continues to support this amazing program. It can still be accessed on our website. Thank you to Jane for her diligent nurturing and growing of this program to such an amazing success.

Mark Magree is our “grounds keeper” and all around “maintenance man” at the Novak Education Center. He and **Mark Demyan** constantly inspect and make recommendations on what we need to do to keep the Education Center in good condition. Thanks to both Marks for keeping it looking good.

Sarah Mabey is an endless source of professional information and thinking “outside the box” to help us come up with solutions to our problems and issues. She is always a positive motivation in ways to improve and peacefully advance. Thank you to Sarah for her important contributions.



We have our vice president, **Tracy Engle**, to thank for the many things he has become involved in and at this moment for organizing this amazing Annual Meeting. Tracy is always willing to jump in and help at any event in any way that is needed. It is a pleasure to have such an accomplished professional at our service! Many thanks to Tracy.

Each time long time board member, **Harvey Webster**, speaks, we all listen because we always receive well thought-out, wise and sound advice on all our endeavors. His many years of experience with wildlife and people make him a key participant in all decisions. When Harvey is on-board, we know we are going down the correct path. Thank you Harvey, your input is always invaluable!

This awesome Board of Trustees is abundant in knowledge, experience, and talent. We are in excellent hands moving forward. When this board makes decisions, I am confident that we made the best decision possible. We constantly improve and move forward protecting wildlife and wild places through education, land management and conservation of our natural resources.

I regret if I inadvertently missed thanking some key volunteers—I want to thank everyone who has generously contributed time, talent and funds. With your assistance we have met our mission of nature education and conservation of our natural resources.

I am pleased to serve on this board with all of you. We are on a good and positive path for now and the future. Thank you to all of you.

Respectfully submitted by
Jim Tomko, President

Communications Committee
Alison DeBroux, Chair

The Communications Committee encompasses five aspects of ASGC's efforts to communicate with members, the public, and the Board of Trustees. These are: the monthly newsletter *The House Wren*; the website www.clevelandaudubon.org; mass email campaigns via Constant Contact; Facebook; and the U.S. Post Office.



The House Wren

Editor: Alison DeBroux

Contributing writers: Jim Tomko, Matt Valencic

Photographer: Matt Valencic

Many thanks to the following for their submissions during the 2025/2026 season: Jane Ellison, Stephanie Demyan, Wendy Donkin, Mary Ann Wagner, Robin Schachat, Daisy Yuhás (NAS), Ban Twaddell, Keith Kohnke, A. Ellison, Kelly Stanek, Laura Bell-Peters, Jim DeBroux, Michael Stein (*Birdnote*) and Ali Shah.

The House Wren is published eight times a year, September through May, with a combined issue for December and January.

The printed version is produced by Minuteman Press, 33528 Aurora Rd., Solon, OH 44139. Phone: (440) 543-5547. Our contact is Sheila Boros, sheilab@minutemanpress.com.

Our mailing list comes partly from National Audubon and partly from a list of local members who are not NAS members. We averaged 1233 mailings per month between September, 2025, and May, 2026. The monthly printing and mailing costs averaged \$869 per month, or \$.70 per mailing. That is up from an \$830 average per month over the same period last year, or \$.68 per mailing.

www.clevelandaudubon.org

Webmaster: Sharon Swaney

ASGC Liaison: Alison DeBroux

The website is the “face” of ASGC, often the first introduction someone has to our organization. Audubon members and the general public can find out about upcoming events, issues concerning birds and wildlife, and read a web-version—in color—of *The House Wren*. Through the connected email address (info@clevelandaudubon.org) they can request specific information, sign up to receive our email newsletter (see below), volunteer, or register for various programs. Online donation, membership, and registration for programs is coming soon.

Update: the website of *Nature in My Backyard* (NMB) is no longer a sub-domain of the primary ASGC website. NMB can be accessed at <https://natureinmybackyard.ohionativeplants.org/>

info@clevelandaudubon.org

Email monitor/designer: Alison DeBroux

Our email address is the most convenient way for members and visitors to our website to contact us and ask questions or find information. These emails are then forwarded to a member of the Board who is most likely to have an answer.

Email is not only our members' and the public's primary contact with the organization, it is also the portal through which we connect with them via Constant Contact (CC), a mass email distributor. Their fee is based on the number of email contacts we have. As of May, 2026, ASGC had 1237 email contacts, up from 1016 a year ago.

Once a month or as often as we wish, CC will send out our email “campaign” that may include upcoming events, a link to the web-version newsletter, general information about birds and wildlife, and progress on various ASGC projects like the Trail Crew. These campaigns act as supplements to *The House Wren*. They are designed and edited similarly to the newsletter. Contributions are welcome.

Facebook

Monitor: Cathy Green

ASGC has had a Facebook page since 2011. Content is often shared from other sites with occasional photos submitted by Jim Tomko.

U.S. Post Office

Donations and communiques still require “snail mail” capability, though we are working to change most of that over to the website. Some of our members do not use email and will send us hand-written notes. ASGC currently has a post office box at the Solon, OH, Post Office. Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 391037, Solon, OH, 44139. Pick-up is regularly done by Trustee Mark Demyan. Incoming mail is forwarded to the appropriate Board member or distributed at our quarterly meetings.

Submitted by Alison DeBroux
June, 2026



Documentum Committee **Jim DeBroux, Chair**

The purpose of the Documentum Committee is to catalog, preserve and retain records of the history of ASGC as well as provide resources for individuals wishing to research and study ASGC itself, birds and ornithology, and ecology, conservation and the environment.

The current static status of Documentum is:

90% of our historical documents and 100% of Board Meeting minutes have been scanned and archived. Additional back-up archives will be distributed among the ASGC officers. The remaining tasks are to convert, where possible, text document images to searchable text documents for sorting and searching.

All scanned documents currently reside in the Novak Education Center attic, waiting to be filed, but they are protected from the atmosphere to some extent.

75% of the photographs in the archive have been scanned, but unfortunately there is minimal documentation, information or identification for the vast majority of images.

The current dynamic status of Documentum is:

The process of converting the appropriate scanned documents has started. Due to the nature of some of the documents the scans can be difficult to read and make conversion to text documents problematic. Clear, type written pages go smoothly and need little more than spell checking. Old, faded and otherwise unclear documents need a LOT of interaction, interpretation, and direct copying (sometimes with a bit of extrapolation or interpolation) to a text file. These documents need to be interpreted by hand and entered into the database for easy searching and retrieval. This will be a continuing process.

The priority for document conversion is:

1. Legal
2. History
3. Sanctuaries
4. News articles
5. Trustee/Board Meetings
6. Other

(This order is subject to change)

There are a few more documents that need to be scanned, and they are in the possession of the committee chair. These documents mainly consist of historical bird counts and miscellaneous information.

The bird count documents will need several different types of scanning and text conversion ... first scanning the documents ... second converting them to text documents ... and lastly converting the text documents into usable data for research. These documents are of interest due to the nature, not of the bird counts themselves, but because of the written descriptions.

If any of this activity appeals to any member, the Documentum Committee is always willing to accept new volunteers.

Submitted by Jim De Broux
June, 2026

**Education Committee
Matthew Valencic, Chair**

The role of the Education Committee is to "... promote the conservation and appreciation of

birds and other wildlife through ... educational activities, focusing on the Greater Cleveland Community". We accomplish this through a variety of programs including Nature in my Backyard, The Backyard Naturalist Speaker's Bureau, online Zoom presentations (Third Thursdays), Chagrin River Bird Quest and outreach to area schools.

Nature in My Backyard (NMB) was the highlight for the Education Committee in 2025, reaching more than 700 people this year with high quality knowledge about native plants and biodiversity. It is a certification program to help homeowners understand the essential steps to increase biodiversity in their own backyards. It is a collaboration between ASGC, Shaker Lakes Garden Club, and Cuyahoga County Master Gardener Volunteers. Many outside professionals are used as resources to provide continuing education for our volunteers.



Homeowners request a visit, and two NMB volunteers will spend about 90 minutes reviewing the property with the homeowner(s) and completing an assessment sheet as they get to know the homeowner and his/her goals for their property. They make suggestions for the homeowners to help achieve their goals for their property. They identify non-native invasive plants and make suggestions on best techniques for removal. They make suggestions for native plants appropriate to the site and the homeowners' goals, especially keystone plants. Follow-up calls are made to see how things are going.

You can learn more about NMB and register for a garden visit at natureinmybackyard.ohionativeplants.org.

NMB teams have visited more than 400 gardens since its inception in 2022, with 264 in 2025 alone. The main forms of advertising are tabling at community events, signage, word-of-mouth and an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer about their unique mission helping homeowners and the environment. To support this growth, they implemented an online scheduling system (Acuity) to match the 30+ volunteers with 50 garden visits each month from May through October.

Outreach included 14 table-top displays at various events from May-October, and a monthly Zoom® series called Brown Bagging in my Backyard, featuring gardening experts on a wide variety of topics from trees and plants to care for birds, beneficial insects and other invertebrates. From November through April the leadership team of Jane Ellison, Robin Schachat, Kathryn Craig, Harvey Webster and Wendy Donkin are busy working on improving resources and scheduling educational activities for the Master Gardener Volunteers together with planning for the next growing season.

The growth and success of this program in just three years is extraordinary and due in large part to the vision and hard work of Jane Ellison. The quality of the volunteers' knowledge and their unique services to homeowners have gained regional and national attention and will likely outgrow the resources of ASGC in 2026 and beyond. We are proud to be a founding partner and look forward to NMB's continued growth.

The Backyard Naturalist Speakers Bureau includes Jim Tomko, Sarah Mabey, John Lillich, Harvey Webster and Matt Valencic. Together they presented 32 in-person or virtual talks (via Zoom®) in 2025, reaching more than 1,200 individuals across NE Ohio and beyond. These talks covered a variety of subjects related to birds, insects and biodiversity.

Third Thursdays is our monthly Zoom® series which we began when the pandemic shut down our in-person talks. We offered six programs in 2025 that reached another 260 people.

We are grateful for our relationships with **Area Schools and Teachers**. In May we participated in a STEAM event for 3rd and 4th graders at Leighton Elementary School in Aurora. We had hands-on displays about birds and flight, including our 14' long banner of birds in flight. You could compare your 'wingspan' (arms outstretched) with various raptors. Most of the students had 'Red-tailed Hawk' wingspans – about 48 inches. Thanks to volunteers Keith & Wendy Kohnke, Rich Banish, Katherine Craig, Tracy Engle, Barb Philbrick and Mike Sustin for their help that evening. In September we donated 125 owl pellets for the Leighton Elementary 5th graders' Owl Pellet Lab. This is always a great 'discovery' experience for the students, and we love that students are learning about birds and the environment.

The 11th **annual Chagrin River Bird Quest (CRBQ)** in September was a great success. 125 birders on 31 teams explored the Chagrin River watershed for 24 hours, finding 127 species including 22 warbler species. Awards for most species seen (101) went to team "Where's the Darn CONW", and most warbler species (19) to "Just Wingin' It". The most species seen by a family team went to "Counting Crows" and the youngest birder (2-years-old) was from team "Birding Group #5".

A record 90 people attended the celebration at the end of the event with delicious pizza and salad catered by Vinney's of Middlefield, a huge variety of homemade desserts (donated by our volunteers), and fresh apple cider.



Our raffle was amazing, featuring a hand-carved California Quail from acclaimed carver John Lillich (ASGC), three framed bird photographs donated by Kirtland Bird Club member Steve Cagan, a massive Northern Cardinal (yard art) from Wild Birds Unlimited, and a 2-night stay at a B & B donated by Mary Ann Wagner of Blackbrook Audubon. And there were also many donated door prizes by local businesses and individuals. It was an amazing celebration, and we are so appreciative of all our supporters.

Thanks to the 15 volunteers who played some role in planning or supporting the event. We could not do this without your contribution of time and talent.

Our programs and activities reached approximately 2,300 individuals during 2025. If you would like to join the Education Committee, email us at info@clevelandaudubon.org. We would love to have you on our team.

Submitted by Matt Valencic
June, 2026

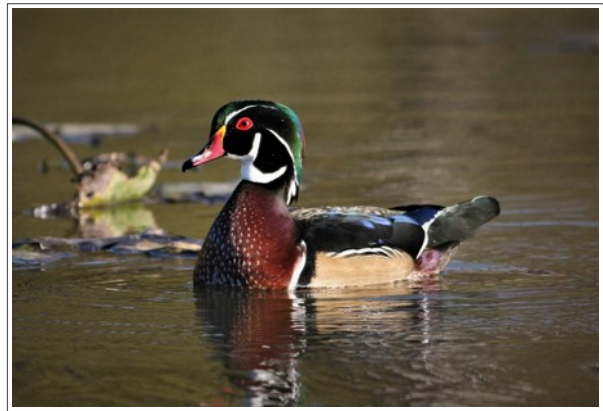
Field Trip Committee
Jim Tomko, Chair

Members: John Lillich, Jim Tomko

Each month a seasonally appropriate outing is offered at one of our four nature preserves. From 1-30 people joined in during 2025 with age ranges from an infant carried by his mom to those with many miles logged.

Thanks to the generous offer from Western Reserve Land Conservancy, we were invited to a “closed to the public property” for some outstanding waterfowl watching. Dr. Sarah Mabey and Matt Valencic from our own Board of Directors helped to lead this field trip. Hopefully, this will remain an annual event.

If you have an idea for a field trip, we would love to hear your suggestion and the possibility of you organizing and/or leading it. We happily invite anyone to submit their ideas. They will gratefully be considered.



Submitted by Jim Tomko
June, 2026

Financial information omitted for website.
Please contact ASGC Treasurer for more information.

Sanctuary Committee

Jim Tomko, Chair

Members: Mark Demyan, Hal Goodwin, Keith Kohnke, Ken Kresina, John Lillich, Rob Swaney, Jim Tomko, Ban Twaddell, Matt Valencic, Don Voorhees

Our sanctuaries continue to remain an excellent place for both humans and wildlife alike. Each year we strive to maintain the quality gained and enrich the resources to make the sanctuaries healthy and appealing. The following are some examples of how this is achieved:

Aurora Sanctuary: Keith Kohnke and his trail crew have maintained the “beaver deceiver” which they installed several years ago. They have improved trail conditions including building a small bridge over a beaver channel at Fulton Pond. They keep the trails free of blowdown. This crew is always ready to assist on any sanctuary issue.



Matt Valencic has continued clearing large sections of buckthorn, Japanese barberry, and reed canary grass, allowing natives a chance to reclaim ground in all our sanctuaries. This is an ongoing and overwhelming task but he is giving those invasive species a run for their money.



Novak Sanctuary: Matt Valencic and his crew, with the help of Aurora High School students and Nestle employees, continued the battle against invasive species to clear large swaths of buckthorn from the four fields, the forest and along the shoreline of the beaver pond by mowing, lopping and daubing, and chain-sawing the resistant invasives. They are restoring a healthy native plant ecosystem.

Kenny Kresina and Mark Magree also provide mowing and trimming to keep the fields in good condition and the trails for easy walking. The 21-nesting-box Bluebird Trail is again providing nesting places for bluebirds, tree swallows, and house wrens. The diligent crew walks the trail once a week evicting non-native house sparrows and monitoring the native cavity nesters.

Molnar Sanctuary: Kenny Kresina continues his passion for improving wildlife habitat by planting native species with excellent sheltering and food bearing properties. Kenny and Keith Kohnke monitor the water level and the beaver deceiver to help prevent flooding as the beavers continually attempt to raise the water level.

Hach-Otis Sanctuary: John Lillich is our key maintenance and rule enforcement official to keep the paths, fields and forest in excellent condition. John treats this property as if it were his own, which allows it to remain the “emerald gem” of our sanctuaries. John mows the John & Carol Lillich Meadows periodically to enhance the area’s bluebird habitat which, in turn, makes the meadow richer for other native flora and fauna. The Bluebird Trail has begun to fledge a new “crop” of bluebirds this year. John and Ban Twaddell have cleared several windthrows across the trails. ODNr cleared a particularly large one for us.



Jane Ellison’s native plant demonstration gardens have continued so that visitors are able to see how native wildflowers could create a dazzling view in their own backyards. These gardens are intended to show visitors how the blooming plants will appear in their own gardens.

The goal of having wildlife sanctuaries is to provide a place for our natural creatures and plants to thrive. There is a magical additional benefit for us while we are there. Walking the sanctuaries is a pleasure and very restorative to all who visit. The sensations one experiences while there will surely help to reset the emotional state and promote healthy relief from the stresses of modern life. Please take a stroll through one or all of them to restore yourself.

Submitted by James W. Tomko
June, 2026

Photo Credits

- Cover: White-crowned sparrow (M. Valencic)
- Pg 2: American coots on melting ice (M. Valencic)
- Pg 3: Jim Tomko, 2025 Annual Dinner (A. DeBroux)
- Pg 4: Mark Magree accepting the Award of Merit, 2025 Annual Dinner (J. Lillich)
- Pg 5: Red-headed woodpecker (M. Valencic)
- Pg 6: First-year little blue heron (M. Valencic)
- Pg 8: Tiger swallowtail on ironweed (M. Valencic)
- Pg 9: 2025 Chagrin River Bird Quest (M.A. Wagner)
- Pg 9: CA Quail, 2025 CRBQ raffle (J. Lillich)
- Pg 10: Wood duck (M. Valencic)
- Pg 10: Great Backyard Bird Count (M. Valencic)
- Pg 12: Working on new footbridge (B. Twaddell)
- Pg 12: H2Ohio, Aurora High School students (L. Bell-Peters)
- Pg 13: The Trail Crew (R. Swaney)

2024-2025 Officers and Board of Trustees



President - Jim Tomko: *Chair, Sanctuary and Field Trips Committees, Member of IBA and Newsletter Committees; Spring Bird Walk Leader.* BA Zoology, Miami University, MS Environmental Biology, Ohio State University; OD Optometric Doctorate, Ohio State University; Operate my own optometry business. Served 3 years active duty as an officer in the U.S. Navy and as an Optometrist at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. President of Aurora Conservation Council's Moebius Nature Center; Member of Aurora's Tree Commission; Kiwanis, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and Treasurer of my church, The Religious Society of Friends. I am a participating doctor in MedWorks which provides free health care for the working poor. I am always ready for any nature adventure, and my first scientific study of natural history was herpetology (frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles, snakes, and lizards).



Vice President - Tracy Engle: *Member Sanctuary, Education, and Newsletter Committees.* I hold the following degrees: AAS Recreation and Wildlife Management, Hocking Technical College; BS Natural Resource Management, The Ohio State University; MS Biology, John Carroll University. I am a Vice President and Regional Practice Leader for TRC Environmental Corporation where I manage offices from Wisconsin to the Carolina's. I reside in Auburn Township in Geauga County where I currently serve on the Board of Supervisors for the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District. In the past I have served on the Auburn Township Zoning Commission, the Geauga County Planning Commission, and the Downtown Cleveland Historic Warehouse District. I am a very active birder in Geauga and anywhere my travels take me; in 2023 I birded in 16 states and also enjoyed birding in Costa Rica while on a trip with my wife. I spend much of my free time and weekends outdoors, enjoying the beauty of nature.

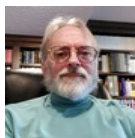


Acting Secretary (as of July, 2024)– Alison DeBroux: *Chair, Communications Committee and Member Education Committee.* I earned a BA in Communications from Colorado State University. After 25 years working in computer graphics for TV and film, I earned an MS in Secondary Education from the University of Akron, after which I became a tutor specializing in Language Arts and ACT/SAT preparation. I am active in ASGC's Communications and Education Committees including editing *The House Wren*, among other duties. I spend most of my time training and showing my dogs, Quincy, Blake and Jessie. I am owned by one cat, Nyx, and am married to Jim.



Treasurer - Stephanie Demyan: *Chair, Finance Committee, Member Newsletter Committee.* BS Chemical Engineer, Tri-State University, and works in Aurora, Ohio as a Quality Manager. I am past Treasurer CLE ASQ, Past President CLE ASQ, International 6 Sigma Lean Manufacturing Judge, and Senior Member of ASQ. I am active in birding, monitoring the blue bird boxes, sailboat racing on Lake Erie, and traveling. I enjoy the diversity of the birds in Northern Ohio and the abundant knowledge in

birding that is present in the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. I am married to Mark and enjoy our four adult children and three grandchildren.



Jim DeBroux: *Chair, Documentum Committee; Member Newsletter Committee.* I have degrees in Math and Chemistry and retired from BASF in 2016 after 37 years of being a chemist, the last 10 years as a lab manager. Under my direction our lab implemented ISO9001 using a system that I designed and was highly computerized. I am skilled at programming, database design and maintenance. I still do math stuff and am a member of SABR (if you want to know about SABR, just ask me.) I am a bit of an information junkie.



Jane Ellison: *Member Education, IBA, and Newsletter Committees.* BS in Environmental Education from Cornell University School of Agriculture. I am a life-long outdoors person and a gardener.



John Lillich: *Member Documentum, Membership, Sanctuary, Field Trips, and Newsletter Committees, and Gates Mills Spring Bird Walk Leader.* Lubrizol Systems Analyst (retired), Vice Chair, Willoughby Hills Planning & Zoning Commission and Architectural Board of Review; and Trustee, Willoughby Hills Historical Society. I was married to the late Carol Lillich, Secretary and Trustee of ASGC. I have a lifelong fascination with the outdoors, which has led to my hobbies of wood carving and wood turning. I love the look, feel, and smell of individual wood species. This began about the age of eight when I was given my first pocket knife. The pieces I turn and carve are done to best display the grain of the wood and enhance the carved subject.



Sarah Mabey: *Member IBA, Education, Membership and Newsletter Committees.* BA Bryn Mawr College, MS University of Maryland, and PhD University of Southern Mississippi; Assistant Professor and Co-Director of Environmental Studies Program at Hiram College.



Ban Twaddell: *Member Sanctuary and Newsletter Committees.* BA at Clark University, a BSN and MSN at Case Western Reserve University, and Certification in Nurse Anesthesia at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He practiced as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist for 36 years with the Cleveland Clinic and Mt. Sinai Hospital systems and retired in 2018. While practicing at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center, he served as a clinical and academic instructor for nurse anesthesia students. He has served the Bahá'í Faith community in several administrative capacities, has volunteered with the Boy Scouts as an assistant scoutmaster, the Geauga Park System as a canoe & kayak guide and served on the Board of Trustees as secretary and treasurer of the Western Reserve Chorale. In addition to helping with trail maintenance in the ASGC sanctuaries he volunteers with Habitat for Humanity. Ban and his wife, Ruth, have 3 sons and 5 grandsons.



Matt Valencic: *Chair, Education Committee which includes Nature in my Backyard (led by Jane Ellison). Member Sanctuary and Newsletter Committees. B.S. in Forest Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (1975). I had a 40-year career in professional sales, specializing the last 25 years in medical devices.*

Twenty years of volunteering with Boy Scouts as a Scout Master and Assistant Scout Master, with emphasis on camping, backpacking and nature studies. Retired in 2015 and joined ASGC where I used my love of birding and bird photography to create and present programs for our Backyard Naturalist Speakers Bureau. Became a Master Gardener Volunteer in 2017 and became passionate about removing non-native invasive plants in the ASGC sanctuaries. Patti and I have been married for 53 years and live on an 8-acre hobby farm with 2 horses and a large vegetable and flower garden. We have 3 adult children and 9 grandchildren.



Harvey Webster: *Member Education and Newsletter Committees. BS Cornell University; former Director of Wildlife Resources, Cleveland Museum of Natural History.*

Trustee terms are three years and they are elected on a rotating basis.

*2025 Annual Report prepared by Alison DeBroux, Acting Secretary
Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, June 2026*