



2007 Birdathon Results

By Penny O'Connor

Birders who entered our Birdathon saw a total of 103 species in the Rocky River Important Bird Area during May 2007. We had money support from 36 individual sponsors. Eight generous organizations, businesses and individuals contributed prizes. Our Birdathon netted almost \$500 in support of bird research in the RR IBA.

The wonderful 31-mile walk by Stan Searles, Katie Genoviso and Tom Romito netted \$225 as they covered the length of the IBA. Dave Lewis held a Birdathon special on sales of his bird photos, and sent an even bigger cut of the proceeds to Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. All of these projects helped us to get the message out about the Rocky River Important Bird Area and the wonderful bird populations it supports



Thank you to the birders, sponsors and prize donors who helped us see 103 species in the Rocky River Important Bird Area; not to mention that the Bird Survey teams were also doing the IBA Survey!

Song Sparrow © Page Stephens

Prizes donated by:

Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Fairview Lanes
Liberty Books
Terry Gorges
Dave Lewis
Nature's Bin
Mary Anne Romito, Enrolled Agent
Staples

Birders:

Janice Andes
John Andes
Kit Birch
Laurie Boylan
Liz Clingman
Terry Gorges
JoAnne Gorges
Patti Graziano
Tim Hudak
Debra Jesionowski
Dave Lewis
Penny O'Connor
Mary Anne Romito
Kathleen Tiburzi

Individual Sponsors

Janice Andes	Vic & Terry Macha
John Andes	Adeline Machado
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Christie Cermak	Tim Nauman
Bob Chandler	Kathy Nimrichte
Caroline Chandler	Jo Ann Petrello
Liz Clingman	Coleen Roy
Laura Dising	Debbie Schneider
Audrey Dragony	Georgeen Sonntag
Karen Forsyth	Brian Smith
Jo Anne Gorges	Kathleen Tiburzi
Tina Hanak	Cathy Terchek
George Huang	Loretta Williams
Lynda Kalemba	Jonathan Withrow
Evan Lewis	Brian Workman

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*Please see our web page for detailed list of species recorded.

Field Trips

Saturday, August 18, 2007 ...9:00 AM...Ottawa Driving Tour

For this field trip we will meet at the brand new **Ottawa Visitor Center** in the **Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge** to observe shore birds. This is an Important Bird Area and well worth the drive.

Directions: From Cleveland, take Rt. 2 west past Sandusky and Port Clinton. Ottawa NWR

is about 40-45 miles west of Sandusky. It's entrance is 2 miles west of Magee Marsh on the north side of Rt. 2.

Alternate route:

Take Ohio Turnpike I-80 west to Rt. 250 north. Take Rt. 250 north to Rt. 2. Take Rt. 2 west to Ottawa NWR

Saturday, September 15 , 2007... 7:30 AM Dike 14, Cleveland Lakefront

Nancy Howell will lead our September field trip to **Dike 14** on Cleveland's lakefront, a great birding area. Waivers will be available and must be signed before entering Dike 14. The terrain is very rough and there are no established signage, walks or trails. We'll take it slow, but it is a wild place, so be prepared and wear good shoes and socks for hiking, as well as long pants. There are ticks on site so you may want to use bug spray and/or tuck pants into socks prior to this

walk. Bathrooms are available near, but not on, the site.

Directions: Take I 90 to Martin Luther King Blvd. Turn north on MLKB, then left (west) on N. Marginal Rd. Turn right into the Cleveland Lakefront State Park-Gordon Boat Ramp parking area. Park in the far north-east end of the parking lot. This is the end of the parking lot closest to the gate that surrounds Dike 14.

Sunday, October 14, 2007...8:00 AM...Wendy Park at Whiskey Island

Dave Lewis and Laurie Boylan guide us as we look for fall migrants on this field trip to **Wendy Park on Whiskey Island**, located on the immediate western shore of the Cuyahoga River where the river empties into Lake Erie.

Directions:

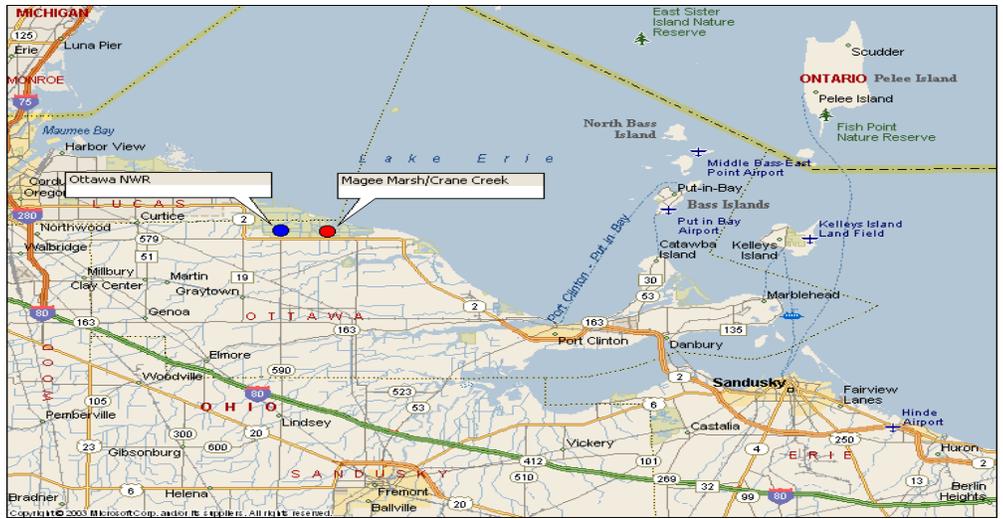
Head to the lower part of Edgewater State Park located directly off of Ohio Rt.2 between the Clifton Blvd exit and the West 45th St. exit.

Get off Ohio Route 2 at the Edgewater Park exit and head north towards Lake Erie. Turn right on the first and only road on your right (now heading east). Keep veering to the right and follow the road as you wind past the Sewer District Plant operations on your left. Keep following the road, which will end at the Whiskey Island Marina guard gate and the entrance to Wendy Park.

Field Trip Maps

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

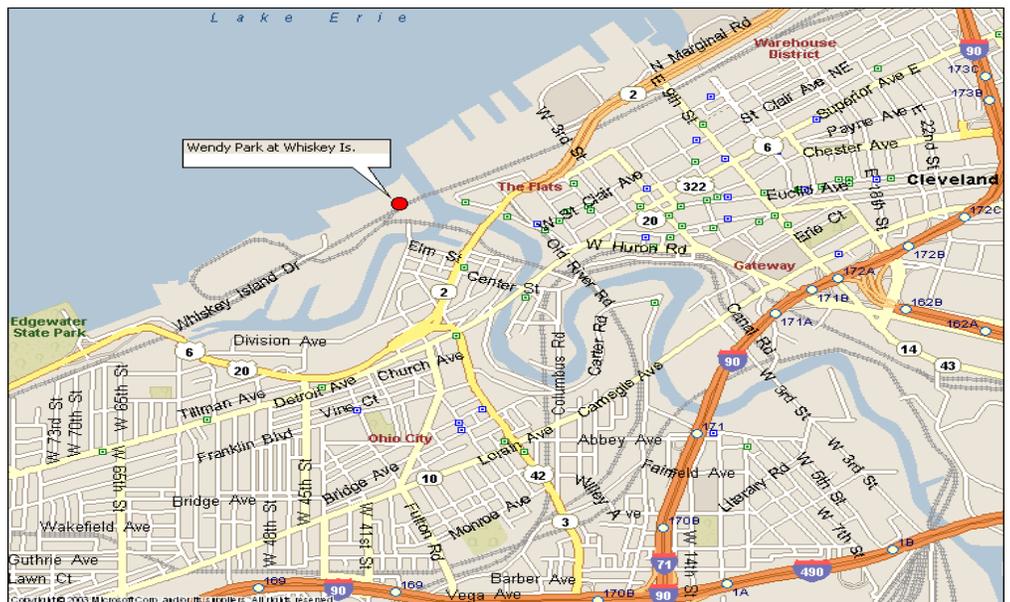
If you are interested in carpooling, contact Penny O'Connor at 216-676-4859 or e-mail pjo@earthlink.net.



Dike 14 Cleveland Lakefront State Park



Wendy Park and Whiskey Island



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, Sept. 4, 2007...7:30 PM

Akron author [Ann McClain Roher](#) has spent 10 years observing the black-capped chickadee, including a nearly four-year span with an individual alpha male she came to know as Mr. Picky. Her book, "*Mr. Picky and Me*," is a detailed account of the chickadee's life and behavior. The program she will present, "*Lessons From a Master Chickadee*," will relate little known facts about the black-capped chickadee from the perspective of the flock. Come and learn about one of your favorite feeder visitors.

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007...7:30 PM

What do you think about when someone says "ants?" Picnics? Ants in the pants? Getting out the bug spray? Believe it or not, ants are a tremendously important part of an ecosystem. [Kal Ivanov](#), from Cleveland State University, is working on an ant survey in the Metroparks and will enlighten us on what he has found, along with information on how an ant survey is done and some fascinating ant facts. So bring your aunt, uncle and the rest of the gang to the program, "*Ants in our Backyard*."

Conservation News

Audubon Ohio reported that the **U.S. Senate** recently took an historic step by passing a bill with the first meaningful increases in auto fuel efficiency standards in over 20 years. Ohio's own [Sen. Sherrod Brown](#) took a stand at a key point in the debate, at one time the only "car state" Senator to support increases to fuel efficiency. The provision in the Senate bill (which still has to be passed in the U.S. House) means that corporate average fuel economy standard—CAFÉ—would be raised to 35 miles per gallon by 2020 for all cars, trucks and SUVs. This will save 2.2 million barrels of oil per day by 2020 and is a step toward slowing global warming and climate change.

The Rocky River Watershed Council will be hosting the **2007 Rocky River Watershed Festival** on Sept. 29th at the [Rocky River Nature Center](#). This will be another great way to publicize the importance of protecting the water quality and habitat of the Rocky River watershed and thereby benefiting the Rocky River Important Bird Area also.

The RR Watershed Council is also looking for volunteer water quality monitors, especially in the Strongsville area, from May through Oct. All necessary training and equipment is provided. Contact: Jared Bartley: jbartley@cuyahogawcd.org or 216-524-6580 x 14.

Contact Us

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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 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.

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Penny O' Connor

Kathleen Tiburzi

Important Bird Area 2007 news

Second Year of IBA Project Adds Vegetation Survey

By Terri Martincic

This year's IBA project (our second year) features a vegetation survey of the Rocky River IBA. We are looking at the habitat of each point covered by the bird observers and recorders. Many bird species have very specific habitat needs. Each of our 60 points has four subplots, each measuring a 5 meter radius within a larger 50 meter circle. Here is our methodology:



- 1) Trees and shrubs growing over 1.4 meters, or breast height, will be identified (genus or species), measured and counted. Woody seedlings and shrubs will be counted if they are above 25cm, or ankle height. We'll identify only plants present in more than 20% of the circle.
- 2) The height of the highest part of the canopy will be estimated in meters, we hope to get equipment to measure the actual height.
- 3) The vegetation profile will be determined with the telescoping pole pictured to the left. Hits will be recorded for multiple heights from 0-.5 meters up to 4-5 meters.
- 4) Using densitometers, we will measure the canopy leaf cover from the center subplot.

If you would like to participate in the vegetation survey, contact Terri Martincic by e-mailing her at naturenut@wowway.com or calling her at 440-243-4536.

Big Walk for Rocky River IBA

By Tom Romito

Some people will go to any lengths to promote their local Important Bird Area (IBA). Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) member Stan Searles decided the best way to do this was to walk the entire length of the IBA from Hinckley, Ohio, north to Lake Erie. The 31 mile route follows the Rocky River through both private lands and the Cleveland Metroparks. Stan, who is Curator of Birds for the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, took it upon himself to do this May 26.

Stan's daughter Katie Genoviso and WCAS President Tom Romito joined him for the walk. Beginning at 6:00 a.m., they completed the walk footsore but happy at 5:30 p.m. Several WCAS members and friends provided support along the walk.

Stan conceived the walk as a way to draw public attention to the IBA. "There is no better way to educate people about the IBA than to meet them personally and talk to them," he said.



Left to right, Tom Romito, Katie Genoviso, and Stan Searles march up the all-purpose trail through the Rocky River IBA during the May 26 walk. They passed hikers and bikers and had the opportunity to tell people about the IBA.

Weeders in the Wild Events

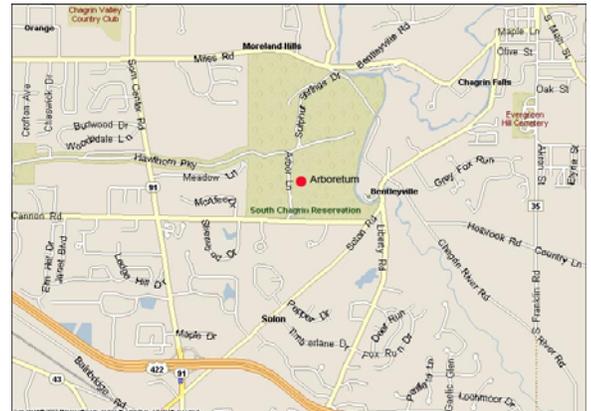
Maps for the following locations are available on the WCAS website at www.wcasohio.org.

Larger maps on www.wcasohio.org

August 12, 2007, Sunday 10:00 am —noon South Chagrin Arboretum Cleveland Metroparks

The third annual Cranberry liberation pull. Wendy Weirich will join us as we remove the invasive Buckthorn that is trying to crowd out the native Cranberry.

Take 480 east to 422 (near 271). Quickly exit at Miles Road. Turn right (east) onto Miles. Go past Look About Lodge, turn right (south) on Sulphur Springs Drive. Turn right on Hawthorn and a quick left onto Arbor Lane. The Arboretum parking lot is on the left.



Arboretum at South Chagrin

September 16, 2007, Sunday 10:00 am—noon West Creek Reservation, Parma

Join Terry Greathouse and Stacy Allen and we cut into a Phragmites patch. This plant does well in full sun so bring your sunscreen, and something to drink as we tackle this formidable adversary.

West Creek is between State Rd and Broadview Rd on W. Ridgewood Drive. W Ridgewood is south of Snow (aka Rockside) and north of Pleasant Valley Rd.

October 6, 2007, Saturday 10:00 am—noon Chippewa Picnic Area Brecksville Reservation

Join Dave, Linc and Joe as we dig and pull the invasive Japanese Barberry that is infiltrating this old woods. Bring gloves if you have them.

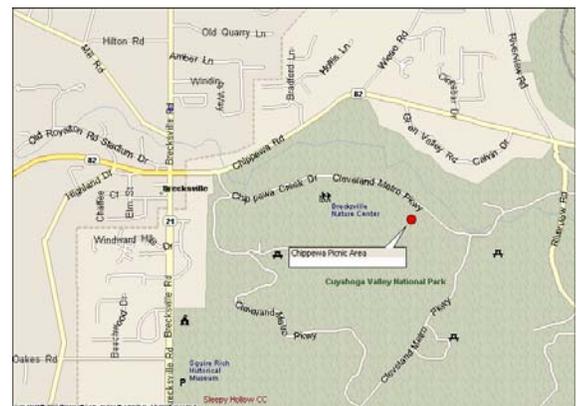
Take I-77 South to Route 82 east, turn right (east), continue past Route 21, Brecksville Rd. Turn right into Chippewa Creek Drive, bear left at the fork in the road. Drive past Brecksville Nature Center; Chippewa Picnic Area is on the right.

Pick up a **Native Plant** card at one of our Programs. If you have any questions please contact Terri Martincic at: 440-759-8220 or email to naturenut@wowway.com

For more information about invasive plant species see the [Ohio Invasive Plant Council](http://www.oipc.info/) website at www.oipc.info/



West Creek Reservation, Parma, OH



Chippewa Picnic Area, Brecksville, OH

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Thanks You...Thank You...Thank You...Thank You

Thank you to the following sponsors who donated \$100 or more to the Rocky River Important Bird Area Awareness-Big Walk

McDonalds/GLC Enterprises

Page Stephens



Thank you to **Dave LeGallee** for representing WCAS at the School Days event presented by the Cleveland Lakefront State Park on Wed., May 23, 2007. Dave has been a dedicated volunteer for several years, staffing the display and educating youngsters on various topics. This year WCAS had a display on wetlands and some hands-on items from animals that **can** be found in wetland areas.

Audubon Adventures

Attention all those interested in the education of our future citizens! **Audubon Adventures** is a nationally-acclaimed classroom resource kit for educators of grades 3 through 6. It covers topics and lessons that are pertinent to today's environment. This year's theme is "*Back From the Brink—Success Stories from the Endangered Species Act.*"

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has limited funds to provide **free** kits to teachers who are interested in implementing this program in their

school. Please contact Nancy Howell at 440-891-1710 or 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or at nhowell@cmnh.org if you would like to order a kit. To spread the educational benefits even further, consider sponsoring an **Audubon Adventures** kit yourself for a school's library so more educators may use it.

For more information, please see our website www.wca0sohio.org and click on "For Educators."



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 and a window cling.

Check one:

1 or 2 people

Family

Dues

\$20

\$35

Additional Donation (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



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Renewal Time!

Its time to renew your chapter membership in Western Cuyahoga Audubon which runs from September 1 through August 31. We can give you 10 GREAT reasons to renew:

1. Supports conservation in our area
2. Terrific field trips year "round
3. Great programs from September through May
4. Nice people who share your interests
5. Rocky River Important Bird Area projects
6. Informative website and newsletter
7. Bird-friendly coffee at all our meetings
8. Networking with other conservation organizations
9. Fun at the IBA Walkathon and Birdathon
10. Because it is YOUR chapter and you help to direct us toward our mission

Please use the form in this newsletter or off our website and send it in soon.

** Remember that shade-grown coffee is now being sold at our monthly meetings.*
Good for bird habitat, good tasting and good for WCAS fundraising!*



Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
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