



Change presents WCAS with challenges

By Tom Romito, WCAS President

WCAS is at a crossroads. Now that our five-year Important Bird Area survey is over, we need to create a new management structure and re-establish our identity. The board is experiencing growing pains in these areas, but uncertainty is necessary for growth. This article highlights what's going on.

This spring, WCAS elected a vice president for the first time in ten years. This is a "sea change" that gives us a capability and depth that we haven't had in a long time. Nora Ebie graciously accepted the nomination for the office and the membership elected her at our May membership meeting.

At our June meeting, the WCAS board empowered the vice president with administrative duties that the president has routinely been handling. Nora will manage an array of duties, such as our annual report and acknowledgement letters for annual appeal donations. "Manage" doesn't mean that she will do these things herself. Instead, she will delegate tasks to the board members and help them do these tasks.

I believe that WCAS will benefit by having all board members participate in carrying out the organization's management functions. They will become trained and knowledgeable in the ways that WCAS functions. As a result, we will develop a pool of potential officers

who can, in the future, step into leadership roles and manage the organization seamlessly.

Earlier this year, the board decided that when a new president is elected, the current president will stay on the board as "immediate past president" for the term of the newly elected president. This change will help ensure that the board does not lose the president's institutional knowledge. Further, we decided that the board will include elected officers, appointed chairpersons of standing committees, the immediate past president, and at least six Directors-at-Large. The function of the Directors-at-Large will be available to accomplish specific tasks that the officers may assign them.

The board is also working hard to create new outreach opportunities to serve the public and solidify our identity in the community. We want to be the conservation organization-of-choice in our geographical area. Lastly, we are trying to implement ways to attract new members and volunteers.

If the great work of the board entices you and you would like to help WCAS, please contact one of the board members.

UltraBird & UltraWalk Wrap-Up 2013

UltraBird May 23 - The weather was just perfect. It was about 66 degrees most of the morning. The birds were singing like crazy in Hinckley. This is the first year we have "eBird"ed the UltraBird. Thanks to Mary Lou Hura,

Tom Romito, Penny O'Connor and Mary Anne Romito for participating.
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Mary Anne, Tom, Mary Lou - UltraBirders at Hinckley © Penny O'Connor

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Field Trips

Sunday, August 25, 8:45 AM Shorebird Field trip Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Trip Leaders: ONWR Staff

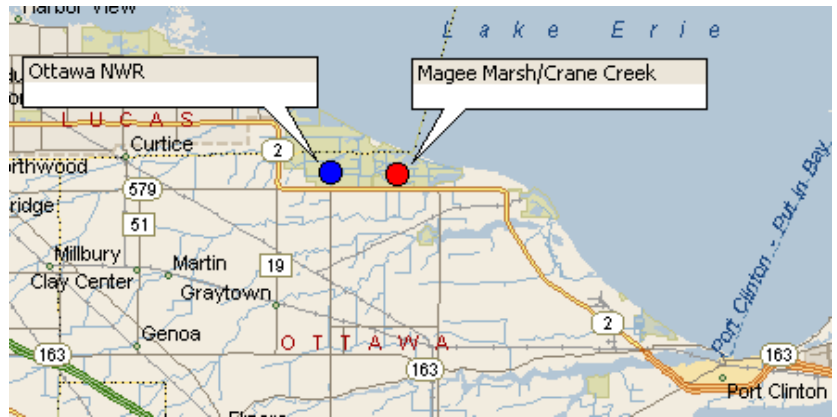
Shorebirds are on their way south from breeding grounds in the Arctic. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge provides beautiful habitat for their stopover in Ohio. Car pool or drive on your own to ONWRA. Refuge experts will lead this tour on a 14-passenger bus. If we don't all fit, some cars can follow. Bring lunch if you would like to get together for a picnic after birding.

Meet at the visitor center. Double check the ODOT website and possibly plan to allow some extra travel time to ONWR due to construction on Route 2.

Carbon Offset: ONWR is about 90 miles from Cleveland, for 180 miles round trip. This trip will be part of our Carbon Offset project. Birders may contribute to our Carbon Offset fund to compensate for road miles. A donation form is at <http://www.wcasohio.org/PDF%20files/CarbonOffset.pdf>. The fund will be used to preserve habitat in the Rocky River Important Bird Area.

Directions to ONWR:

From Cleveland. Take Route 2 west past Sandusky and Port Clinton. Ottawa NWR is about 40-45 miles west of Sandusky. The entrance to Ottawa NWR is 2 miles west of Magee Marsh. **Alternative route.** Take the Ohio Turnpike I-80 west to Route 250 north. Take Route 250 north to Route 2. Take Route 2 west to Ottawa NWR.

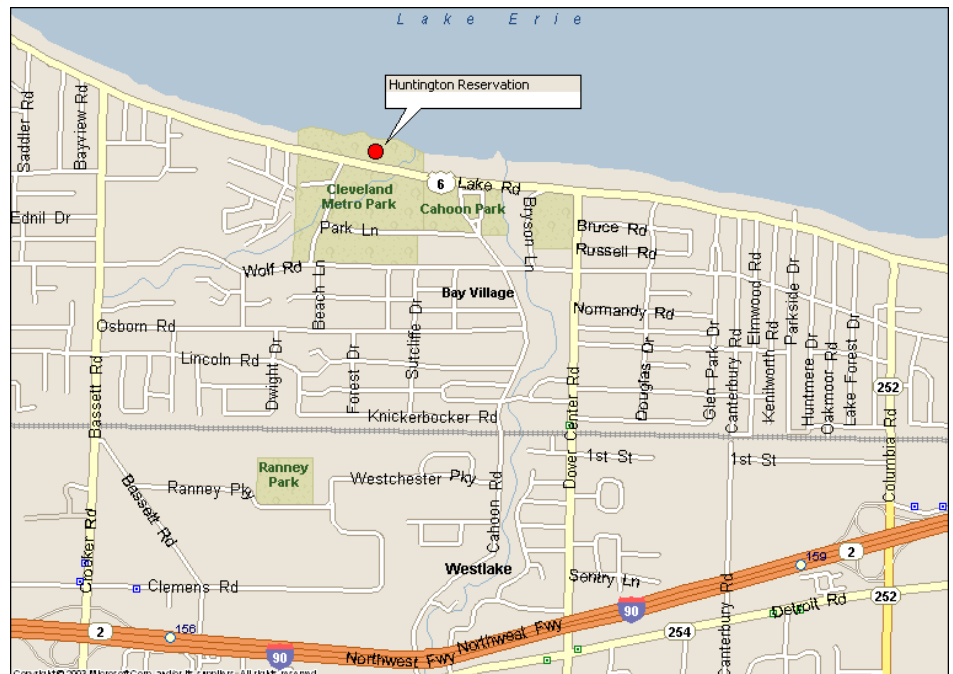


Saturday, September 14, 8 AM Huntington Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks

Trip Leader: Erik Bruder
Target Species: Warblers & Other Fall Migrants

The south shore of Lake Erie is a prime stopover for southbound birds feeding and resting after a flight across the lake. We will meet at the tower/ice cream stand, by the Huntington Beach parking lot.

Directions to Huntington Reservation: From Cleveland, take Route 6 (Lake Rd) west to Bay Village. Or take I-90 west to Columbia Rd. Take Columbia Rd north to Lake Rd. Turn left (west) on Lake Rd. The main parking lot for Huntington is on the north side of Lake Rd. Meet at the tower/ice cream stand.



Field Trips

Sunday, September 29, 8 AM Lake Erie Nature and Science Center Field Trip and Raptor Encounter

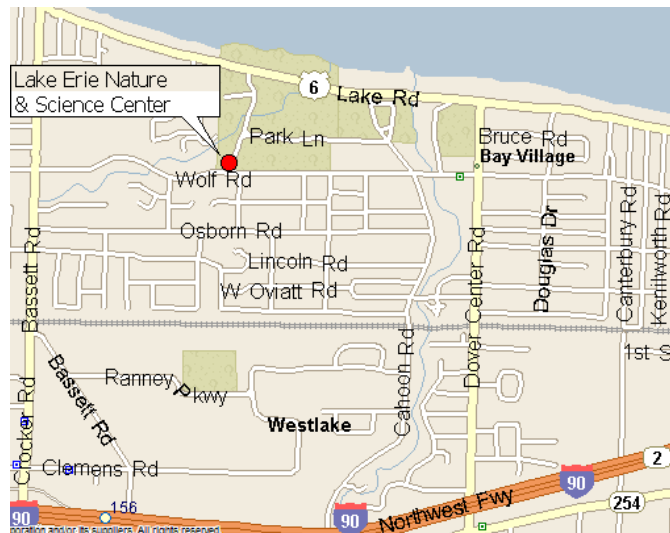
Target Species: Migrating Passerines, Waterfowl, and Raptors

Fall migrants stop on the Ohio shore of Lake Erie after a flight across the lake. Meet at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd, Bay Village, Ohio 44140 for a bird walk through the woods and fields of Cleveland Metroparks Huntington Reservation to Lake Erie and Back. Following our walk, we will meet some of LENS's resident raptors face to face.

Directions from the west: Via I-90 East, Exit 156 Crocker-Bassett Roads. Turn left on Crocker, which becomes Bassett at the railroad tracks. Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance is .7 miles on the left (north).

Directions from the east: Via I-90, Exit 159 Columbia Road North. Turn right on Columbia. Turn left on Wolf Road. Entrance is 1.9 miles on the right (north).

Directions from the south: Via I-480 east OR west, Exit 3, Stearns Road. North on Stearns (eastbound turn left; westbound turn right). Stearns becomes Crocker, then becomes Bassett at the railroad tracks. Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance is .7 miles on the left (north).



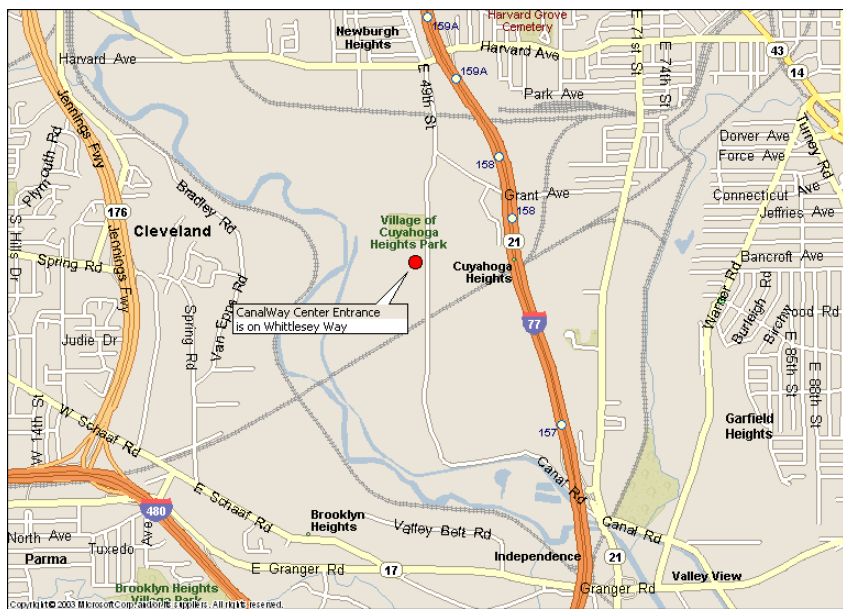
Saturday, October 19, 8:30 AM Canalway Field Trip

Leader: Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.
Target Species: Fall Migrants

The Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks has a variety of habitats hosting migrating and resident birds. We will meet at Canalway Center. You have seen Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.'s great bird photos, now join him for morning of birding.

Directions: Take I-77 to Grant Ave. Take Grant Ave west to East 49 St. Turn south or left on E. 49 St. to Whittlesey Way. Turn right on Whittlesey Way and follow it to the end. The Center's parking lot is at the end of Whittlesey Way.

Note: Canalway Center is in The Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation.



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.

August Field Trip & Weeders in the Wild Only! Go Birding!

Tuesday, September 3, 7:30 PM

eBird: Good for the Birds, Good for You

eBird, a real-time, online checklist program, can help you keep track of birds you have seen and show you where other birders have found the birds you want to see. eBird is a citizen science project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Avid birder Ken Ostermiller will present a live demonstration of the eBird web site and show you how eBird can help you in his program, "eBird: Good for the Birds, Good for You".

eBird

Tuesday, October 1, 7:30 PM

Management is for the Birds



Dr. Ana Locci, Biologist and Director of the Case Western Reserve Farm (Squire Valleevue Farm) will discuss the farm's bluebird trail program and data collected from 2000 to the present. She will also talk about other the unique bird habitats and property management, such as mowing to enhance the population of grass-land species, such as bobolink and meadow-lark in her presentation, "**Management is for the Birds**".



Carbon Offset Project Update

Modeled after the Carbon Offset Bird Project launched at the 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium, Western Cuyahoga Audubon has begun a project to offset the carbon impact of some of the driving done during our field trips. The process involves participants voluntarily contributing toward the fund based on mileage and the size of vehicle driven. The WCAS website has more information and a handy form to calculate the amount you wish to donate. Click on Field Trip then Carbon Offset Project. Money generated will go toward habitat preservation and restoration in the Rocky river Important Bird Area or other area within the range of the Western Cuyahoga Chapter. Consider contributing to the Carbon Offset Project when you take a birding trip. The birds say, "Thank you".

Total collected to date - \$678.60

Save the Date - WCAS Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 29

Watch for details in the next newsletter &/or on the website, but you can mark your calendar now!

Weeders in the Wild

Leader: Terri Martincic

**Join Western Cuyahoga Audubon as we go into nature
and restore biodiversity one plant at a time.**

Saturday, August 17, 1:00 pm

Look About Lodge, Cleveland Metroparks



The woodlands around Look About Lodge are dotted with Japanese Barberry, an invasive plant. Ages 14 to adults can bring work gloves and a shovel to help curtail the spread of this shrub throughout the forest.

Take I-480 east to Route 422 (near I-271). Quickly exit at Miles Road. Turn right (east) onto Miles. Look About Lodge will be on the right.

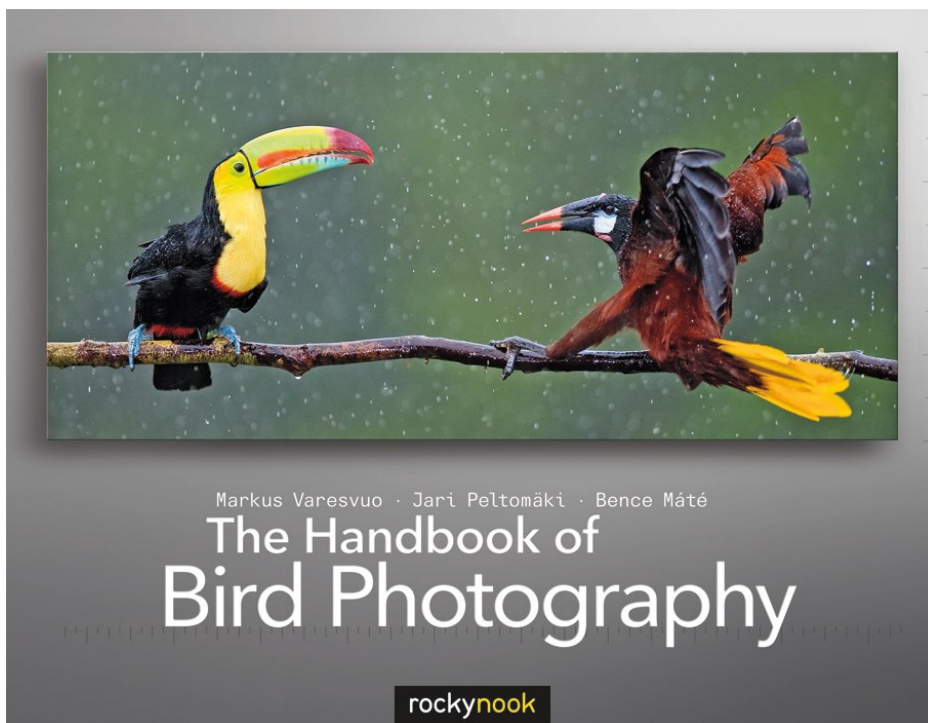
Book Review

“The Handbook of Bird Photography’ Or...Where’s My New Lens?”

By Dave Lewis

Even if you aren’t interested in photographing birds, this book has gorgeous photos of hundreds of birds. The authors, Markus Varesvuo, Jari Peltomäki and Bence Máté are three amazing award winning photographers from Europe (could you tell by the names they weren’t from Cleveland?) I have to thank the folks at Rocky Nook for sending this to me, though it has made me a little depressed...

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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!

Welcome New Members

Michael Andrysko
Gay Christensen-Dean
Russell Dean
Charlene and John Gigante
Mercedes Hathcock
Patricia Moore
Rayka Petkova



UltraWalk & UltraBird, continued from Page 1

UltraBird May 24 - The weather was quite a bit chillier. It stayed about 45 degrees all day. The birds still sang but the comfort level for the observers was considerably colder. At one point we adjourned to Cafe Ah-Roma in Berea to warm up. Still we came up with a respectable total today. Mike Pasek joined us today. Thank you. Terri Martincic heard a Great-Horned Owl at Willow Bend.

Comments: 2 barnyard geese at Strongsville WA

20 Mallard -- Mama with 2 small ducklings & 2 larger ones at Strongsville WA.

227 Chimney Swift -- They are circling the HNB chimney. Many are going in. It's only 11 am.

UltraBird May 25 - The wind died down and made the 34 degrees weather much more tolerable. It eventually warmed up to 55 degrees. Highlights today for the UltraBirders were a Yellow-throated Warbler singing at Lagoon; a Brown Creeper was singing too. A mother Woodcock and 2 young did their Woodcock strut across the open field near Cedar Point Rd. We were joined by many birders today at Rocky River Nature Center. For 3-day results, see the website.



Woodcock family © Tom Fishburn

UltraWalk May 25 - The UltraWalkers, Stan Searles and Steve Mather walked the entire length of the Rocky River IBA today. Congratulations! They were joined by several people for the last 5 miles. The UltraWalkers and our board members met many people along the way and introduced them to WCAS and the wonders of our Important Bird Area and birding.



Rocky River UltraBird Walkers © Penny O'Connor



UltraBirders and Walkers © Penny O'Connor

Do You know Any of these UltraBird or UltraWalk Participants & Volunteers?

If so, you might ask them why they did it and will they do it again?

Thank you to the following:

UltraBirders

Bill Deininger
Tom Fishburn
Joanne Gorges
Terry Gorges

Mary Lou Hura
Peggy Joyce
Penny O'Connor
Mike Pasek

Ryan Pulis
Mary Anne Romito
Tom Romito

UltraWalkers & 5 Mile Walkers

Madelyn Genovese
Taeven Genovese
Sam Mather

Stephen Mather
Rayka Pekova
Tim Shafer

Katie Searles
Stan Searles

UltraWalk Volunteers

Nora Ebie
Carol Nordman

Michael Nugent
Vicki Searles

Book Review, from Page 5 - This book covers everything you need to know about photographing birds from what gear you need (or lust after!;) exposure, focus, light and more technical information. But what really sets this one apart from all the other bird photo books on the market is it's detailed hints about learning bird behavior and migration patterns. That is what you really need to know to shoot birds! They also cover ways to attract birds with perching branches, water features and blinds. Then my favorite chapters...pages and pages of birds photographed by these tremendous men from all over Europe, Asia, the middle east and the Americas. The patience it takes to get the shots is something I need to work on...not to mention getting a 500mm lens...maybe Canon will send me one to review...



Above - A fine example of the photography you'll find in this book. Definitely not an example of the...uh...photography you'll find in my blog.



Above - I didn't know that Parrots were such party birds! You could learn that if you owned this book.



This is, by far, my favorite photo. Now, I need to learn to sit still, focus, get a longer lens...and there's something else...Oh yeah, take photos from the FRONT of a bird!

Editor's Note
Dave Lewis' aptly named blog is www.burdzbuttz.blogspot.com (hence his final comment; see below). Much thanks to Dave for allowing us to copy this review from his blog, including the pictures (thanks to Rocky Nook, also) and Dave's captions. The blog contains a great deal of information, reviews and suggestions, not to mention the pictures shown here but, more impressively, in full color.

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

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WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Shade Grown Coffee Is For the Birds!

Coffee grown on traditional, shade coffee plantations offer sanctuary to migratory birds in the midst of altered and shrinking habitat. Please remember this when shopping for your coffee and look for the [Rainforest Certified](#) label. Coffee drinkers can make a huge contribution to bird conservation by selecting brands produced from shade-grown plants.

WCAS will be selling Audubon Shade Grown coffee at our monthly meetings beginning in September. Hope to see you there!

