



**It's a New Fiscal Year!
Please Remember to Renew Your WCAS Membership!
If You're Not Member, Join NOW! See Insert!**

Summertime in the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

By Ken Vinciguerra

Step through the turnstile and what immediately grabs your attention is the variety and sheer volume of bird song: Yellow Warblers, Red-winged Blackbirds, Willow Flycatchers, Gray Catbirds, Song Sparrows. And that's just the first few steps. Welcome to Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP) in early summer.

Because of its location on the south shore of Lake Erie and its varied habitats, CLNP has become well known as a vital stopover for abundant numbers of passerine migrants and, in the adjacent lake waters, large rafts of stunning waterfowl. But in the summer, it's the year-round residents and the migrant summer residents who take center stage. Here's just a smattering more of what you'll find.

From the entrance, walking clockwise along the 1.3 mile Perimeter Loop Trail, listen on the first stretch for Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrashers, often singing very close to the trail. A bit further on, it's the Northern Mockingbird you might be lucky enough to hear from its perch in CLNP's SW corner.

As the trail veers northward, start looking up and you're likely to begin seeing and hearing some of the many Baltimore Orioles (and the occasional Orchard Oriole), as well as numerous Barn Swallows and Chimney Swifts acrobatically flying back and forth just above your head.

By the time you've made the circuit around the entire Perimeter Trail, your checklist is likely to have grown to include House Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, Warbling Vireos, Great-Crested Flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Kingbirds, Indigo Buntings and maybe even a Black-billed or Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Nice trail! Oh, and really excellent views of our Great Lake.

While still on the Loop Trail, by the way, you might also want to consider detouring (at the NE corner) onto the Northern Harrier Trail, which will lead you into CLNP's interior.

This is a great place to listen for some of its less conspicuous residents. Here, you might be rewarded with the sight or sound of the Wood Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, and Eastern Wood Pewee. It's one of my favorite stretches.

If you too enjoy your experience at CLNP (and who wouldn't?), you might want to consider volunteering with the CLNP Birding Survey. It's sponsored by the

Kirtland Bird Club, with the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland as partners. You'll find yourself getting to know the Preserve and its beautiful wildlife (mammals and butterflies included) on an intimate level, enhancing your birding experience while also contributing to important citizen science that will help ensure CLNP can be managed to be a prime bird conservation hotspot well into the future.



Eastern Kingbird on a point stake
Courtesy Laura Gooch

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FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, August 30, 8:30 a.m. Conneaut Sandspit

Field Trip with Kirtland Bird Club
Target Species: Shorebirds

The Sandspit at Conneaut often attracts an array of exciting shorebirds including Sanderlings, Red Knots, Willets, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlin, and occasionally something even rarer. Note: Conneaut is about 85 miles from the west side of Cleveland, about 1 hour and 20 minutes or more via I-90 east. The address of the park is 480 Lake Rd.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE CLEVELAND AREA :

Take I-90 east to Ohio Route 7 Exit 241 toward Conneaut/Andover. Go left onto Route 7. Follow Route 7 for about two miles until you reach State Street. Turn right at State St. . Then go left onto Broad Street. Follow Broad Street to the marina. Once you drive down the hill to the marina, turn left and follow this road until you reach a sandy road at the end of which will take you to the Sandspit.

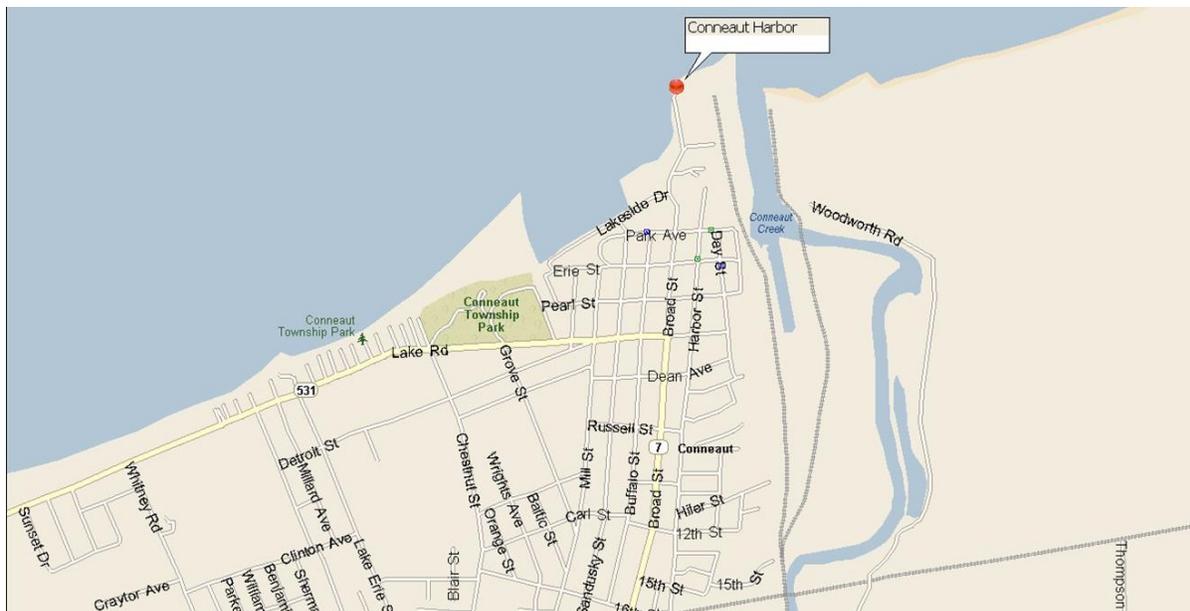
Vehicles drive on the Sandspit when conditions permit. Use judgment about driving the sand road.

Restrooms are by the marina parking area. Restrooms and other amenities are also in Conneaut Township Park, which overlooks the beach.

More about the Conneaut Sandspit is at <http://ohioebirdhotspots.wikispaces.com/Conneaut+Sandspit>

A map of the beach and marina area is at: <http://bit.ly/1NvHZAo>

Use the satellite view to see where the sand road is located. The Sandspit is in the left-side of that view.



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, August 8
Saturday, September 12
Saturday, October 10

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

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, September 27, 8 a.m. Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Trip Leader: Tim Jasinski (LENSC & WCAS)

Target Species: Migrating Warblers

Birds are migrating south from Canada to their wintering grounds in Central and South America. The woods along Porter Creek are a welcome stopover after a flight across Lake Erie. We will begin this walk at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, go to Lake Erie, and return.

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

Map and directions are at: [http://www.wcasohio.org/Lake Erie Nature and Science Center.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/Lake_Erie_Nature_and_Science_Center.htm)

Saturday, October 18, 9:30 AM West Creek

Trip Leader: Kurt Grenig

Target Species: Late Fall Migrants

West Creek Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks has varied terrain and habitat. The Field Trip Leader will be Kurt Grenig, who birds West Creek and is also the founder of the new Southern Cuyahoga Christmas Bird Count Circle. Mid-October is a transitional time, when winter residents are arriving and late-migrating warblers and sparrows are passing through Northeast Ohio.

Meet in the parking lot by the Watershed Stewardship Center. The address is 2277 West Ridgewood Dr., Parma

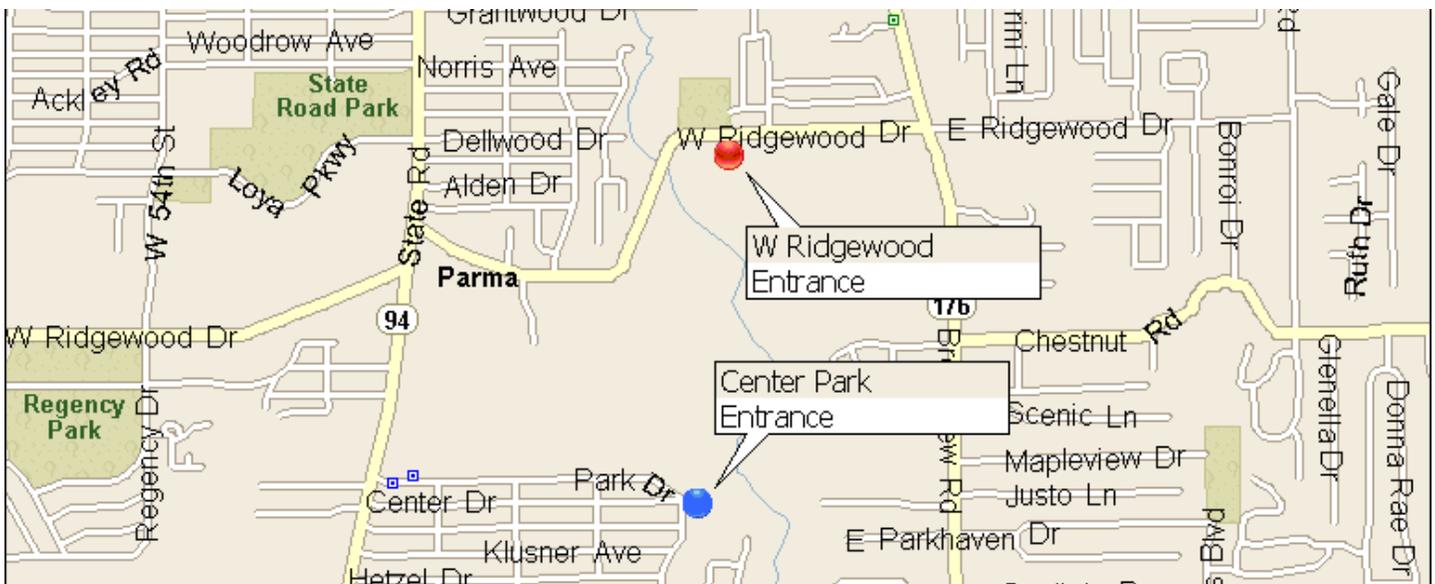
Directions from Cleveland:

Take Broadview Rd south to Ridgewood Dr. Turn right (west) on Ridgewood Dr. The entrance to West Creek is on the left (south) side of West Ridgewood Dr. approximately one-half mile from Broadview Rd.

Directions from I-480:

From I-480 exit at State Road and proceed south approximately two miles to West Ridgewood Drive. Turn left on West Ridgewood, proceed approximately one mile to the entrance of the reservation.

A map is at: www.wcasohio.org/west_creek.htm



Sneak Preview: WCAS November Field Trip

WCAS will join the Kirtland Bird Club for a field trip on the Lake Erie shore. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 21 at Rocky River Park, 20250 Beach Cliff Blvd., Rocky River. We hope to see scoters.

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.

**August
No Program!
Go Birding!**



Belted Kingfisher (left)
Google Free

American Avocet (right)
Taenos.com



Tuesday, September 1, 7:30 PM

Plants That Have Shaped & Changed the World



We know that our world is continually changing, naturally and through man-made influences. Cynthia Druckenbrod, Horticulturalist from the Cleveland Botanical Garden, will share with us, "Plants That Have Shaped & Changed the World". Travelers and explorers carried more than themselves and crew as they voyaged to different continents long ago, some of their cargo were plants. Plants may have been carried from the "homeland" to other lands because they were important or new plant discoveries from distant lands proved useful and brought home. Join us as we find out what plants changed our world.

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30 PM

Kirtland's Warbler: Past, Present and a Vision for the Future



The Kirtland's Warbler may soon be removed from the Endangered Species List even though it remains one of the rarest birds in North America. But unlike other endangered species that have been delisted, the Kirtland's Warbler will require continued human intervention to ensure its survival. In his program, "Kirtland's Warbler: Past, Present and a Vision for the Future", author William Rapai, will discuss the challenges and a new vision for conservation that is being developed for this unique species.



Teaser for the November & December Programs

In November, Amanda Duren will present a program that will inform the audience about the many conservation actions of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI). This promises to be very interesting and educational. If you are interested in conservation, you won't want to miss it.

December will bring us to our annual potluck dinner and a program by Bill Deininger, videographer and WCAS member. Bill will share videos from local birding areas, allowing the audience to 'go birding' from the comfort of their chairs. Don't forget, potluck dinner starts at 6:30 while the program starts at 7:30. Details on both programs will be in the next newsletter.

Christmas Bird Count, Save the Date Sunday, December 27

Be part of Audubon's 116th Christmas Bird Count. It is the longest-running citizen science effort in the world. Data from tens of thousands of participants provides critical data on bird populations. Sunday, December 27, 2015 is the date for Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society count. Birders of all skill levels welcome. To take part, contact Nancy Howell at (216) 231-4600 ext. 3225 (work), (440) 891-1710 (home) or e-mail nhowell@cmnh.org.

Zoo and WCAS Connect Families with Nature

by Tom Romito, WCAS Board Member

What do you do with an elementary school, a zoo, and gung-ho community partners? That's easy – start a nature club!

That's exactly what Cleveland Metroparks Zoo last year did when they got a grant from the Association of Zoo Aquariums and the Walt Disney Corporation. The goal was to connect students and families from an underserved nearby school with nature.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District identified Walton School on Cleveland's near west side as the perfect fit for what became the Zoo Nature Club.

Fifty club members, including students from five to 13 years of age and their parents, participated in three after-school activities last fall at the Zoo, Brookside Reservation, and the school and again in the spring. For many students, these were defining moments.



Walton School students enjoy a winter field trip at Brookside Reservation

"They loved playing and rolling around in the grass at Brookside," said Stacey Pantek, Zoo Education Specialist. "This was an outdoor experience they had never had an opportunity to enjoy before."

The culminating event of the school year for the club was beautifying the courtyard at Walton School. Club members gathered after school on April 22 to clean up the courtyard. The Zoo provided tools for the job and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society provided pizza to reward everyone for their efforts.

On May 12, club members gathered again to plant the gardens in the courtyard. Olmsted Falls Garden Club donated perennials, including hostas, daisies, ground covers, and day lilies.

WCAS purchased annuals from a local Boy Scout troop and also purchased native perennials.

WCAS lent another hand by buying and

coordinating the delivery of 150 bags of mulch from Home Depot. Club members laid two inches of mulch on all three gardens once the planting was completed. Once again, everyone enjoyed pizza at the end of the afternoon.

WCAS members coordinated the efforts for the courtyard and supervised club members, some of whom had no gardening experience. WCAS members and friends who helped with the project were Michelle Manzo, Audrey Goebel, Terry Duncan, Tom Romito, and Suzanne Rafferty.

A big payoff for the club came when teachers at the school saw the results of the project. Juliana Cole, Walton's Dean of Student Engagement, said they acknowledged the club's contribution to the beautification of the courtyard.

Juliana also noted the benefit of the partnership. "The club built rapport between club members and the Zoo," she said.

Michelle Manzo noted that the project achieved the goal of connecting families with nature to build lifelong conservation values. "I hope the kids will be able to watch the garden grow and know they made a difference," she said.

So what's the future of the Zoo Nature Club? Stacey Pantek said the Zoo is going for another grant and wants to do something different, but still nature-oriented. "Possibilities include composting, recycling, mural painting and trips to other parks," Stacey said.



Zoo Nature Club members hard at work on the Walton School courtyard



Far left, The courtyard at Walton School is shaping up!



Center, Stacey Pantek introduces Zoo Nature Club members to Darwin, a Children's Python.



Right, Walton School students enjoyed learning how to make bird feeders.

VOLUNTEER SECTION

Upcoming Opportunities - What We're Doing (You Can Help)

Conservation Symposium

Friday, September 11 from 8 AM - 4 PM at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Science by the People: New Challenges, New Opportunities

The theme is citizen science. We plan on having a table display at the Museum. Volunteers are needed to assist in setting up the display, staffing the table to answer questions as visitors arrive, staff the table at the lunch break and take down the display at the end of the event. WCAS will pay for 2 volunteers to attend the event which includes keynote speakers, a series of presentations and lunch, plus the chance to look around the Museum. Please contact Nancy Howell at 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or nhowell@cmnh.org if you are interested in helping staff the WCAS display AND attend a great symposium!

Friday, September 18 from 3 PM into the evening
Watershed Stewardship Center at the West Creek Reservation (Parma)
of the Cleveland Metroparks
Backyard Biodiversity Blitz

Western Cuyahoga Audubon will have a bird display, a bird identification game and will assist in keeping a checklist of birds sighted during the Blitz afternoon. It is a great way to meet the public who may know a little about birds ... and get them jazzed up. Three volunteers would be great to help set-up, work the display, be good at talking with visitors of all ages, assist with bird identification and take down at the end of the event. Our display may be located outdoors depending on the weather. Contact Nancy Howell for more information and to assist. Call 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or njh24425@hotmail.com

Nests Needed for a Senior Research Study

A student at Hiram College, under the guidance of Sarah Mabey, Ph.D., is conducting research on the nest composition of American Robins, Northern Cardinals, and Gray Catbirds in response to urbanization. Nest composition will be analyzed across an urban-rural gradient. The student would like our members to assist in collecting ONLY American Robin, Northern Cardinal, and Gray Catbird nests. If you find or have a nest and wish to collect it after the birds have fledged, after August 15, please place the nest in a sealed zip-closure bag.

Provide the following information in the sealed bag with the nest:

Your Name: Street Address: Phone Number (optional): E-mail Address (optional):

Species of bird - Circle one: American Robin Northern Cardinal Gray Catbird

Height of nest from the ground:

Location of nest - Circle one: Tree Shrub Man-made structure

If tree or shrub, list the species if known. If unknown, list tree or shrub as deciduous or evergreen.

If in man-made structure, please list specific structure. Show Additional Notes, if any.

Please bring the collected nests to the monthly WCAS meeting on Tuesday, September 1.

Nests will be delivered to Dr. Mabey.

Contact Us

WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Cleveland, OH 44109
Phone: 216-741-2352



Visit our website

www.wcasohio.org

Check us out on Facebook

www.facebook.com/wcasohio

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www.wcasohio.org is the
official Chapter Web Site

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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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Liz Clingman

Kit Birch

MORE VOLUNTEER SECTION

Thank You Volunteers for 2014-2015!

WCAS field trips, outreach and projects could not be done without so many skilled and dedicated volunteers.

Field Trip Leaders

Susan Ballard
Sandy Brown
Erik Bruder
Dave Dvorak

Tim Jasinski
Tammy Martin
Patty McKelvey
Liz McQuaid

Gary Neuman
Mary Anne Romito
Warren Uxley

Second Saturday Bird Walk Leaders (12 walks!)

Bill Deininger

Ken Gober

Dave Graskemper

RiverDay CLNP Bird Walk Volunteers

Jen Brumfield
Bill Deininger
Tom Fishburn

Joanne Gorges
Terry Gorges
Nancy Howell

Tom Romito

Event Volunteers

Patti Ambrose
Nancy Beheim
Marti Burrows

Tim Colborn
Nancy Howell
Penny O'Connor

Joe Reardon

Hospitality at Meetings

June Cangey
Sue Sawyer

Walton School Project Volunteers

Terry Duncan
Audrey Goebel

Michelle Manzo
Suzanne Rafferty

Tom Romito

Science Fair Judges

Michelle Manzo
Penny O'Connor

CLNP Survey Coordinator

Laura Gooch

WCAS Board Members, 2104 and 2015

Suzanne Aldrich
Kit Birch
Liz Clingman
Nora Ebie

Nancy Howell
Kurt Miske
Penny O'Connor
Mary Anne Romito

Tom Romito
Stan Searles

**And thanks to the staff at Rocky River Nature Center
for assistance with our programs!**

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

Bird Conservation and Shade Grown Coffee

By Kit Birch

WCAS will once again be selling Audubon Shade Grown Coffee at our regular meetings in the Fall in an effort to help promote conservation of valuable bird habitat in Central and South America. This is a small way we as individuals can help simply in our choice of coffee brands. Those labeled Organic, Rainforest Alliance Certified, and/or Bird Friendly are all better options for saving bird habitat than regular sun coffee. As you can see by the diagram below, there really is a difference that is readily observable. Which farm would you live in if you were a bird?



- Grows slower; Tastes better
- Requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides
 - Supports much greater biodiversity
 - Sustains healthy ecosystems
- Allows farmers economic diversification



- Grows faster
- Requires more water, fertilizer and pesticides
 - Supports much less biodiversity
 - Degrades ecosystems

