

## Rocky River IBA Update



By Diane Sigler, IBA Coordinator

It's official! The first Rocky River Important Bird Area (IBA) Forest Bird Survey was conducted June 1 through July 15, 2006. The Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS), in association with the Cleveland Metroparks, assembled a multitude of dedicated volunteers, to survey sixty locations throughout the Rocky River Watershed. The volunteers collected bird abundance data at point count stations under strict protocols to ensure that data collection techniques did not vary between Observers. The protocols were designed to ensure consistent data collection through the duration of this breeding season survey.

Long range objectives of the survey include assessing the abundance of forest breeding bird populations; monitoring changes of the population over time; evaluating habitat, land use and other local factors that impact positively or negatively on breeding birds now or in the future;

and communicating the results to those in the community who have a potential impact on the habitat and breeding bird populations in these targeted areas.

The data collected will be assessed and findings will be incorporated into future environmental and land use practices.

WCAS and Cleveland Metroparks thank all those who assisted in this survey at whatever level, and also those who continue to provide support. We value your dedication and look forward to your continued involvement.

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## Chapter Supporters: Its Time To Renew!

A new year (fiscal year that is) and a new Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. We have energy and we are on the go, go, go this 2006 - 2007 season. Thanks to our energetic President and Board, WCAS is only getting better. YOU make our Western Cuyahoga Audubon chapter better as well. The support you show with chapter membership is wonderful. For a small amount, you get a lot in return AND you help shape the chapter.

WCAS provides programs, field trips and participates in the annual Christmas Bird Count. Our exciting news is the adoption of the Rocky River Important Bird Area (IBA) and members assisting with the breed-

ing bird survey. This data helps protect ever-shrinking habitats and is just one way members have become involved.

Please consider becoming a chapter member, renewing your membership or giving a gift membership on the form on page 7. Visit the Western Cuyahoga Audubon website at [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org) to keep informed of upcoming events and activities. Your continued support will help birds and other wildlife and the habitats they need.

Send memberships to Nancy Howell, Treasurer, WCAS, 19340 Fowles Rd., Middleburg Hts., OH 44130.

Thank you from the birds!

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## Field Trips

### Saturday, August 12, 2006...8:00 AM...Conneaut Harbor...open to all

Our field trip to **Conneaut Harbor** to observe shorebirds will be led by Craig Caldwell. We will eat lunch at the picnic pavilion there after the bird walk.

Directions:  
Take Rt. 190 east to Rt. 7. Follow Rt. 7 north to Broad St. Continue north on Broad St. Follow signs to the marina. Map also on WCAS website.



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### Sunday, September 24, 2006...8:00 AM...Dike 14...Chapter Supporters only

This is a special field trip for **WCAS supporting members only**. If you are a chapter member, you are invited to contact us and reserve your spot for this field trip limited to only 40 people. Please email us at: [romito@wcasohio.org](mailto:romito@wcasohio.org), or call us at 216-741-2352 and ask for Mary Anne.

If you are not a chapter supporting member, why not join now?

See Page 7 for a chapter membership application.



To get to Dike 14, take I 90 to Martin Luther King Blvd. Turn North on Martin Luther King Blvd, then left (or West) on N Marginal Rd. Turn right in the Cleveland Lakefront State Park - Gordon Boat Ramp parking area. Park in the far northeast end of the parking lot. This is the end of the parking lot closest to the gate that surrounds Dike 14.

Larger map available at [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org).

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## Field Trips, continued

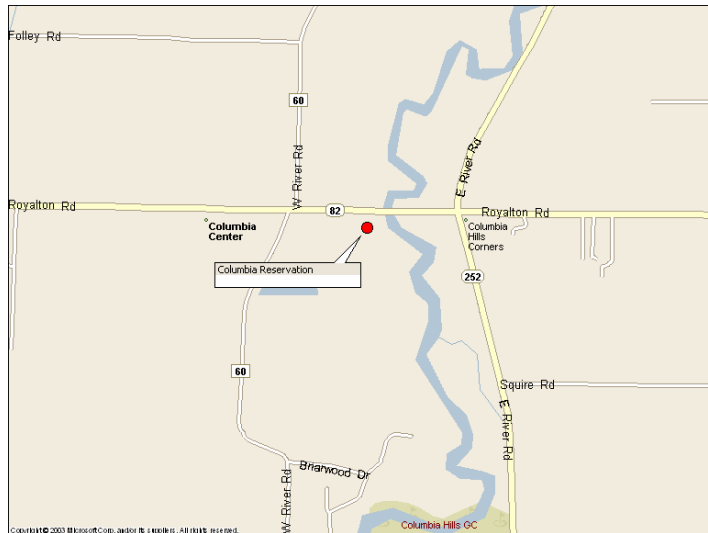
Sunday, October 8, 2006...9:00 AM...Columbia Reservation...open to all

Nancy Howell will lead us on this field trip at **Columbia Reservation** in Columbia Station. We will be looking for fall warblers and other migrants. A diversity of habitats will bring a diversity of birds.

Directions:

Take Rt. 82 west through Strongsville and into Lorain County.

Cross Rt. 252, cross a bridge over the Rocky River, turn left into the parking lot of a snack shop.



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## 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, OH 44070. For a map and directions see [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org).

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Tuesday, September 5, 2006...7:30 PM

What can eat half its body weight everyday and recycle coffee grounds and watermelon rinds in a flash? (No, it is not your teenage son) ... compost worms, of course! In the program, "Worms At Work", learn how worms can be used to compost plant-based kitchen scraps right at home.

Beth Gatchell, coordinator of the Discovery Center at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will share with you the "what" and How to" of **vermicomposting**, including how to start your own system at home! This is a program for all ages.

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Tuesday, October 3, 2006...7:30 PM

Down south, in the sleepy university town of Columbus, Ohio, there is a fascinating laboratory filled with songs and calls of wildlife. The OSU Borror Lab of Bioacoustics, one of the largest such labs in the world, has over 30,000 recordings of more than 1000 species of animals.

Curator of the lab, Dr. Jill Soha, will share with us information about the lab, research using recordings and some of the recordings themselves,

in her program, "**Birds Aren't the Only Ones That Sing.**"



Savannah Sparrow © Dave Lewis

# Give a Boost to Native Habitats

Native habitats can easily be impacted by what people plant on their property. Whether this impact is positive or negative is determined by the plant species that are introduced in an area. With this in mind, an information card was developed that identifies recommended native plants that attract birds and butterflies; as well as listing non-native invasive plants to avoid that harm Ohio's natural habitats.

The card was developed through sponsorship by WCAS, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, NRCS, EarthWatch Ohio, and Audubon at Home. To receive your card and give the birds and butterflies a helping hand, contact Terri Martincic at 440-759-8220. To help spread the word, ask for several and after attaining permission, drop them off at community centers, libraries, schools, garden centers and anywhere else that would reach people who plant.

Grass; Knotweed; Buckthorn; Myrtle (*Vinca minor*).

Introduced invasive plants can and do take over areas robbing valuable habitat from native species. A very clear example of this occurring is in several of the natural areas around town.



### Recommended Native Plants:

Bluestem; Milkweed; Flowering Dogwood; Coneflower; Joe-Pye Weed; Blazing Star; Spice Bush; Beebalm; Virginia Creeper; Vervain; Ironweed; Green Headed Coneflower; Maple-leaved Viburnum.

### Non-Native Invasive Plants to Avoid:

Tree-of-Heaven; Barberry; Vetch; Russian Olive; English Ivy; Privet; Honeysuckle; Purple Loosestrife; Pachysandra; Reed Canary

**Weeders in the Wild Events** has targeted several species of plants that have taken over in local parks and arboretums and have scheduled the following invasive plant removals. Come with or without experience, but come with gloves and with a mission. You will clearly see for yourself the positive impact you have made on Ohio's native habitat.

## Weeders in the Wild Events

**South Chagrin Reservation ...  
Sunday, August 6, 2006 ... 11:00  
a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Target Species: Invasive Buckthorn

Weeders in the Wild will meet at Arboretum parking lot. Arboretum is number 5 on this map. Take Miles Rd to Sulphur Springs Dr. Turn South on Sulphur Springs, go past Hawthorn Pkwy to Arboretum Parking lot.

For a larger map, see our website.





## Weeders in the Wild Events, continued

No expertise needed for Weeders in the Wild Events. Bring gloves.

Please see our website for more details, or call Terri Martincic at 440-759-8220



### West Creek Reservation... Sunday, September 3, 2006... 10:00 a.m.— Noon

Target Species: Phragmites

Meet at West Creek's main entrance parking lot on Ridgewood Dr just west of Broadview Road.

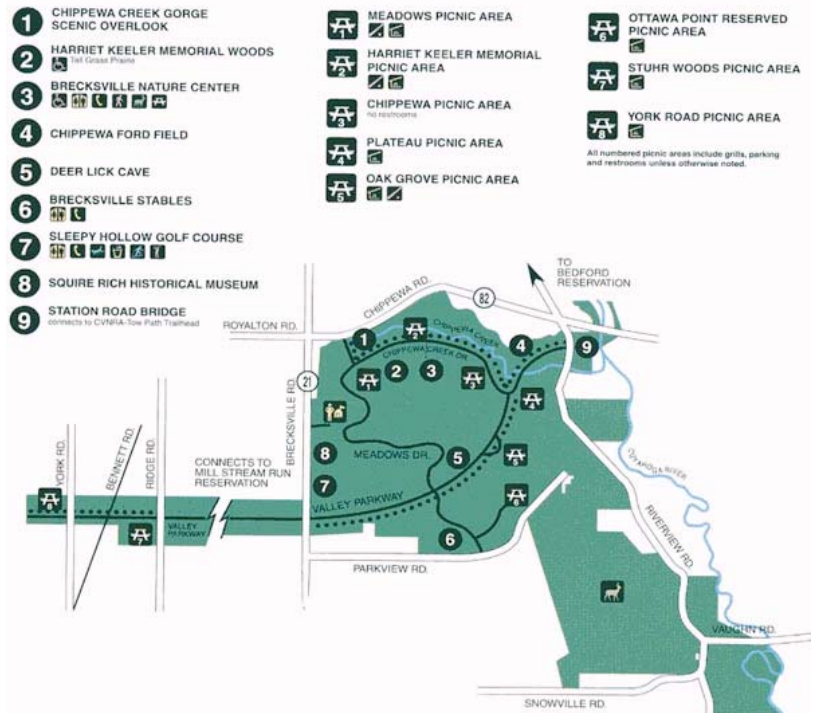
### Brecksville Reservation... Saturday, October 7, 2006.. 10:00 a.m.— Noon

Target Species: Japanese Barberry

Weeders in the Wild will meet at Chippewa Picnic Area. Chippewa Picnic Area is designated by the picnic table number 3 on this map.

Take Route 82 east from I-77 or I-71. Go past route Route 21 (Brecksville Rd). Turn right on Chippewa Creek Dr. Go past the parking lots for Harriet Keeler Memorial Woods and Brecksville Nature Center. Chippewa Picnic Area will be on the right side of the road.

For a larger map see our website



# Welcome To Audubon Adventures!

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is an educational resource kit for educators of grades 3 through 6. Written at a 4th to 5th grade reading level, AUDUBON ADVENTURES is adaptable to students' skills and learning styles. The materials of the AUDUBON ADVENTURES kits are professionally designed to increase a youngster's awareness in and appreciation of birds, wildlife and the natural systems of the earth, as well as creating a sense of stewardship for the natural world. In addition, AUDUBON ADVENTURES is aligned to national standards for science and language arts.

Each AUDUBON ADVENTURES Classroom Resource Kit contains materials for up to

32 students. The 2006-2007 edition is called "Wings and Things" with topics including birds, bats and bees. The contents of one classroom kit includes:

- 4 different editions of AUDUBON ADVENTURES, the tabloid-style paper for students (32 copies per edition) · AUDUBON ADVENTURES Classroom Resource Manual complete with background information on the four themes, detailed lesson plans, tips for outdoor study, student assessment tools, hands-on activities, research material, duplicating masters, links to websites, glossaries, and more.
- Invitation to a Healthy Schoolyard, a poster that

links with web-based content that helps schools take action to make their school or community healthier for people ... and birds.

- Audubon teacher membership benefits.
- Detailed alignment of printed content to federal learning standards in language arts and science and to state standards.
- Great Backyard Bird Count Getting Started CD - available upon request.

WCAS has limited funds to provide free kits to schools (public, private, parochial or home-school). To spread the educational benefits even more, an AUDUBON ADVENTURES kit could be made available to the school's library or media center so many educators could take advantage of the information.

Another way to share AUDUBON ADVENTURES is to sponsor a classroom kit to a teacher or school library of your choice. To order contact Nancy Howell at 440-891-1710 or 216-231-4600 ext. 3225. It's a worthwhile investment for lifelong learning.



## Contact Us

### WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4310 Bush Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44109

Phone: 216-741-2352  
Fax: 216-741-1879  
Email: [info@wcasohio.org](mailto:info@wcasohio.org)

*Visit our website*  
[www.wcasohio.org](http://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](http://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

Pat Poole

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# Rocky River Watershed Festival

Saturday, September 23

11 AM to 5 PM

Rocky River Nature Center

Join us at the Rocky River Watershed Festival on September 23. The Rocky River Watershed Council sponsors this annual event to highlight the existence of the watershed and promote plans to keep it clean and useful for people and animals alike. The watershed extends from Lake Erie to Hinckley (along the East Branch) and Medina (along the West Branch). Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society is partnering with the Rocky River Watershed Council and will have a display at the festival. We will talk about how our Important Bird Area project will help the Rocky River Watershed Council achieve its goals for the watershed. This is also a way for both organizations to gain new members. Would you be interested in helping staff the display all or part of the day? Please contact Nancy Howell at (216) 231-4600, Extension 3225 or [nhowell@cmnh.org](mailto:nhowell@cmnh.org) for further information and how you would like to help.



Great-crested Flycatcher © Dave Lewis



## Chapter Supporter Application

Why wait! Join WCAS as a chapter supporter.

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

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# Western Cuyahoga Audubon's Mission & Vision

The mission of WCAS is to educate the public about conservation of the natural world through member involvement in chapter activities and community outreach.

The vision of WCAS is to encourage awareness and appreciation of the natural world in our community.



Sandy Ridge Sandhill Crane  
© Scott Wright

To find out about current environmental issues, see our "Take Action" webpage. Find them at [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org)



Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
4310 Bush Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44109