



## 2008 IBA Project Shaping Up to be an Adventure

By Tom Romito

Adventurous is the word to describe the plans for WCAS's 2008 Rocky River Important Bird Area survey! This will be Year Three of the five-year project, and we will expand the efforts of the first two years. This article highlights what we plan to do.

We are planning a **kickoff event on Sunday, March 30, at the Rocky River Nature Center**. There, WCAS members and visitors can learn how they can participate in our citizen science projects, including surveys of breeding birds, vernal pools, wetlands, and headwater streams. Presentations along with arts and crafts will round out our kickoff of this year's IBA project.

This winter, we are publishing a report to our stakeholders on the IBA project. Our stakeholders are people and organizations who have a stake, or vested interest, in what we are doing. They include our Chapter Supporters, who are the bulk of our volunteers; many non-WCAS members who have also contributed volunteer hours; and several organizations that have supported us financially and want to see what we have done. They are Audubon Ohio, The George Gund Foundation, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. We think everyone will be impressed by the quality of the report.

Another event taking place this winter is a meeting of WCAS officers and local community leaders. We plan to outline to them how the IBA project affects them and their communities. We are collaborating with the Rocky River Watershed

Council on this initiative because, like WCAS, the Council is interested in the protection and preservation of the Rocky River watershed for future generations.

May 24 is the date of our second annual IBA walk from Hinckley Reservation to the Emerald Necklace Marina, a 31-mile distance. This year's event will attempt to reach a broader audience than last year. We are collaborating with fitness groups to attract bicyclists, runners, and walkers to participate in the event. Anyone can participate, and it's not necessary to go the whole distance. Participants will be able to join in at several points along the way, according to their own abilities.

The actual IBA survey will include the third annual breeding bird survey, a vegetation survey on any new points we have, and a survey of selected points in wetlands and headwaters of the Rocky River watershed along the East Branch. Stay tuned to our newsletter, website, and e-mails to learn more about this great adventure in citizen science and conservation!

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# Field Trips

## Saturday, February 2, 2008...9:00 AM...Gordon Park at E. 72 St.

Enjoy a brisk day out on this field trip to see winter gulls. Dress warmly!  
John Pogacnik will be our leader.

### Directions:

Take Cleveland Memorial Shoreway East (I-90 East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Exit at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, turn left (north). Go under the highway then turn left. Pass the first parking lot and the boat docks. Turn right at the stop sign into Gordon Park, at E. 72 St. Drive left to the far end of the parking lot.

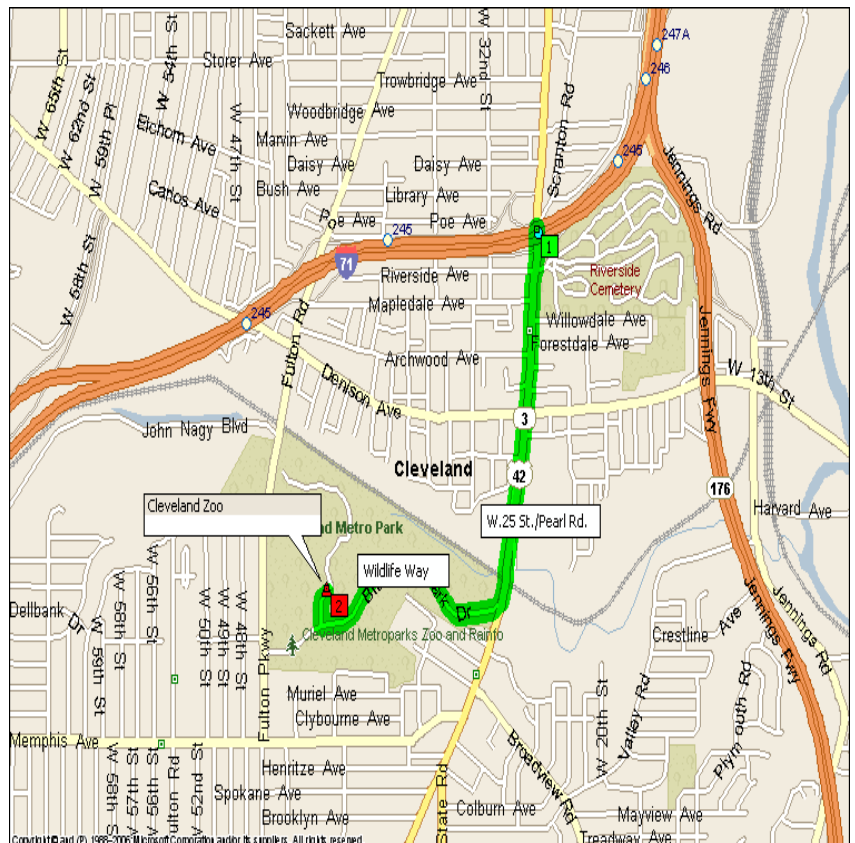


## Sunday, February 17, 2008...9:00 AM...Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

We will meet at the main entrance of the zoo at 3900 Wildlife Way to do both inside and outside birding, so come dressed for both. Stan Searles, Curator of Birds, will present a short program on some of the zoo's latest avian projects and then lead us on a walk to see some of them, including a walk through the rainforest. Afterwards, we can eat lunch at the Rainforest café and then take a brisk walk around the zoo to see our native birds, such as mockingbirds which live at the zoo year-round.

### Directions:

Take I-71 to the W.25th St. Exit in Cleveland. Turn south on W. 25 St. which turns into Pearl Rd. Take this to Wildlife Way (formerly Brookside Dr.) and turn right. Proceed on Wildlife Way to bottom of hill and turn right into main entrance.



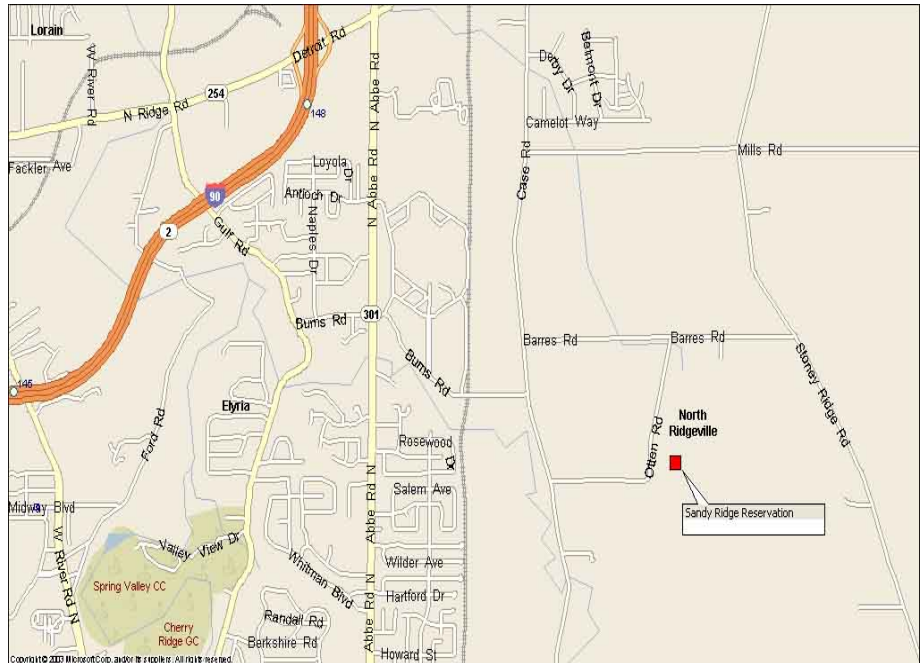
# Field Trips

## Saturday, March 15, 2008...5:30 PM...Sandy Ridge Reservation

Join us for a special evening hike to search for woodcocks, owls and ducks at Lorain County Metropark's Sandy Ridge Reservation. Tim Fairweather will be our guide.

### Directions;

From the Greater Cleveland area, take I-90 to the Rt. 254 exit, left on Rt. 254 to Rt. 301, right on Rt. 301 past Lorain Community College, left on Burns Rd., right on Case Rd., left on Otten Rd. to Sandy Ridge.  
Or take I-480 to Clague Road., turn right or north on Clague to Center Ridge Road (Rt. 20), turn left or west on Center Ridge to Case Rd., turn right on Case Rd., right on Otten Rd. to Sandy Ridge.

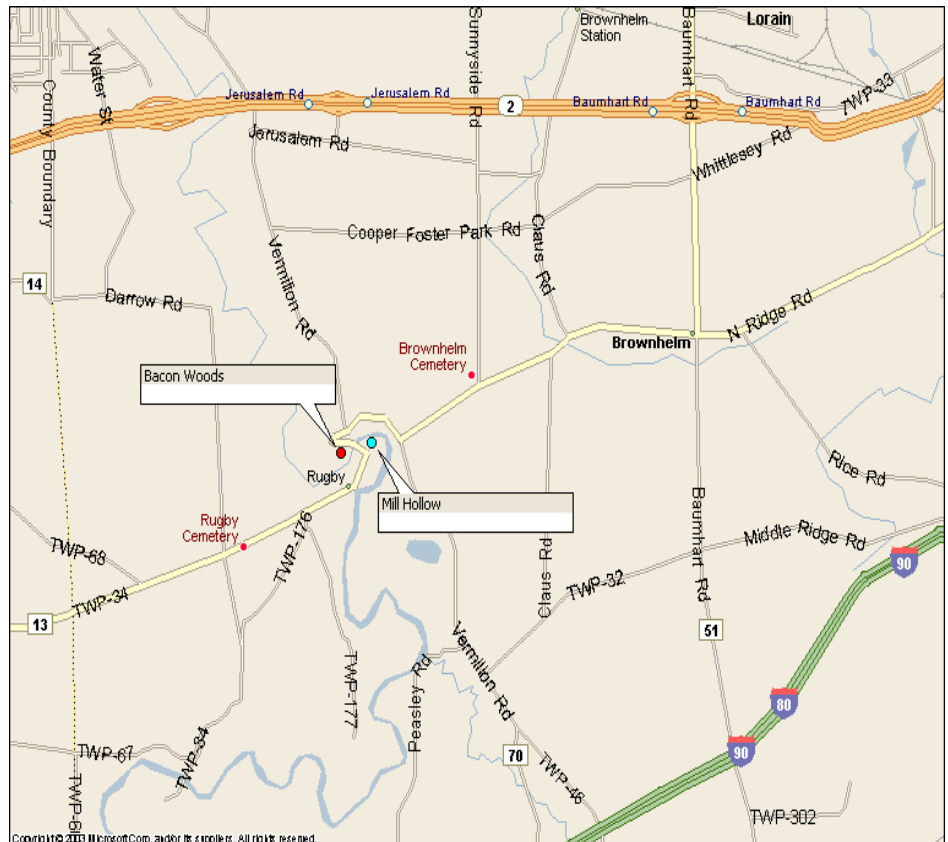


## Saturday, April 26, 2008...8:00 AM...Bacon Woods in Lorain County

We will meet at Bacon Woods in Lorain County. Chris Grames, Chief of Natural Resources in Lorain County Metroparks, and our own Terri Martincic will be our field trip leaders. On this joint field trip with the Native Plant Society we hope to see colorful migrants.

### Directions:

Get to Baumhart Rd. from either Rt. 2 or the Ohio Turnpike. Take Baumhart Rd. north to North Ridge Rd. and turn left. Continue on North Ridge to a "T" (about 2 miles) intersection. Turn right here and continue down North Ridge Rd. past Vermilion Rd. Bear left and go down the hill. The entrance to Bacon Woods is on the right just before the camel-back bridge that crosses the Vermilion River. Then drive along the outer road to the farthest parking lot. We will meet in there.



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## Programs

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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](http://www.wcasohio.org).

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### Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 7:30 PM

The Lake to Lake All Purpose Trail is a unique opportunity to connect Lake Abram and Lake Isaac, two of the most important wetland resources in Cuyahoga County. Senior Park Planner, James Kastelic, will present the program, "**Cleveland Metropark's Lake to Lake Trial**", to share information on how the

new 1.6 mile trail will bring together geologic, natural and cultural features. This important component of the Rocky River watershed also has the potential for linking the neighborhood's academic and health facilities. A truly exciting new addition to our local trails.

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### Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:30 PM

When someone mentions "Africa" the word penguin does not generally come to mind, yet penguins can be found in some unique areas. [Tom Leiden](#) has spend time with researchers of African penguins and his program, "**A Day in the Life of an African Penguin**", views a typical day touching on the challenges they face for survival. Discover what researchers are trying to do to help, and learn about what we, though hundreds of miles away, can do as well.



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### Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7:30 PM

The Rocky River Important Bird Area project has been underway for two years. Bird surveys began the first year with many WCAS volunteers, now vegetation surveys, vernal pool monitoring and more has been happening to assess the health of the Rocky River watershed's habitats. [Tom Romito](#), president

of WCAS and champion of the project, will update us on what has been found thus far, how everyone in the Rocky River watershed can be involved AND plans for the 2008 season in the program, "**The Rocky River: It's for the Birds**".

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## Spring Bird Walks

See the spring migrants during the Audubon spring bird walks. The walks will be held each **Sunday from April 13 to May 18, 2008, at 7:30 a.m.** A full list of walk locations can be found on our web site: [www.wcasohio.org/spring\\_bird\\_walks.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/spring_bird_walks.htm) The following is a partial list of local walks:

Lake Isaac in Middleburg Hts.  
Hinckley Reservation at bridge on State Rd.  
Huntington Beach off Lake Rd. in Bay Village  
CanalWay Center in Cuyahoga Hts.  
Rocky River Nature Center, North Olmsted  
Station Rd. Bridge Trailhead, Brecksville  
Hemlock Creek Picnic Area, Bedford

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# Citizen Science Event

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## The 2008 Great Backyard Bird Count...Feb. 15-18

### What is the GBBC?

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginners to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun and easy and it helps the birds.

### Why Count Birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time. They need our help. Each year that these data are collected makes them more meaningful and allows scientists to investigate far-reaching questions.

### Your counts can help answer many questions:

- How will this winter's snow and cold temps influence bird populations?
- Where are winter finches and other "irruptive" species that appear in large numbers during some years, but not in others?
- How will the timing of birds' migrations compare with past years?
- How are bird diseases, such as West Nile virus, affecting birds in different regions?
- What kinds of differences in bird diversity are apparent in cities versus suburban, rural and natural areas?
- Are any birds undergoing worrisome declines that point to the need for conservation attention?



Barred Owl. Photo by Kenneth Cantley, MN  
2007 GBBC participant.



2007 GBBC participants in Port Orange, Florida  
Photo by Beth Dobberstein

### How to Participate

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes during Feb. 15-18. Count birds at as many places and on as many days as you like—just keep a separate list of counts for each day and/or location.
2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time, and write it down.
3. Enter your results through this web site:  
<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

*The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited.*

## Christmas Bird Count News

By Nancy Howell

We had a wonderful turnout of 54 participants for the 108th Lakewood (west side) Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 29. The weather was seasonably brisk with a few snow flurries later in the day. From the lakefront south to the Strongsville border, teams scoured cemeteries, green spaces, the Metroparks, birdfeeders, golf courses, the lakefront and backyards. For several years now Lake Erie has been free of ice thus scattering the gulls and waterfowl. Sixty-five species were seen on that day and two during count week. Some species numbers were

up and other species were down.

Thanks to ALL of the participants whether walking, driving, feeder-watching or contributing items to our chili lunch...it truly is a team effort. If you would like to see the numbers of species seen as well as the names of participants and where they birded, please check out the WCAS website:

**[www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org)**

Below is the list of just the species seen with a couple of highlights!

Mallard  
American Black Duck  
Northern Pintail  
Greater Scaup  
**Surf Scoter**  
**Black Scoter**  
Wood Duck  
Lesser Scaup  
Bufflehead  
Common Goldeneye  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Ruddy Duck (count week)  
Common Loon  
Horned Grebe  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron

Bald Eagle  
**Northern Harrier**  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Red Shouldered Hawk  
American Coot  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
American Tree Sparrow  
**Fox Sparrow**  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
House Sparrow

American Robin  
**Common Redpoll**  
Canada Goose  
**Ross's Goose**  
Common Grackle  
Rock Dove (Pigeon)  
Mourning Dove  
Great Horned Owl  
Barred Owl  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
American Crow

Blue Jay  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Northern Cardinal  
Brown-headed Cowbird (count week)  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing

## 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

Penny O' Connor

Kathleen Tiburzi

## Regional Water Pact Measure Resurfaces

Excerpts from Toledo Blade article by Tom Henry

Legislation that could lead to Ohio's ratification of the proposed Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact is being considered again. Legislators are planning to reintroduce legislation that was approved by the Ohio House last year, 82-5. Ratification failed, though, because Ohio's 126th General Assembly ended last Dec. with no vote taken on companion legislation in the Senate.

The proposed compact, ratified earlier this year by Minnesota and Illinois, is endorsed by Gov. Ted Strickland. It was written over four years ago under Gov. Bob Taft who took the lead on this proposal while chairman of the Council of Great Lakes Governors from 2001 through 2005. Diversions or bulk exports of water outside of the natural Great

Lakes basin would be banned, with limited exceptions and unanimous consent of the eight states. It also applies a common standard for managing all waters within the basin, which holds 20% of the world's fresh surface water. The intent is to assert regional control over the lakes before water shortages become more acute in other parts of the country.

Jerry Tinianow, Audubon Ohio executive director, supports efforts of Ohio legislators to join with the other Great Lakes states and provinces in this matter. He believes that "keeping our water within the basin is the key to protecting our economy and our environment".

*You may contact your state legislator at:*  
<http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/>



## 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



## Welcome New Members

Therese Conway  
 Charles and Maria Finchum  
 Madeline Ingles  
 Richard Jerdonek  
 Diane Jones  
 Mike and Sue Kapcoe

## CALENDAR

### Monthly Programs at RRNC:

February 5... 7:30 PM  
 March 4..... 7:30 PM  
 April 1..... 7:30 PM

### Field Trips:

February 2 ...Gordon Park  
 February, 17 ...Cleveland Zoo  
 March 15... Sandy Ridge Res.  
 April 26... Bacon Woods

### Citizen Science Events

Feb. 15-18...Great Backyard Bird Count  
 March 30...Rocky River IBA Kickoff

