



Are You Ready to Work?

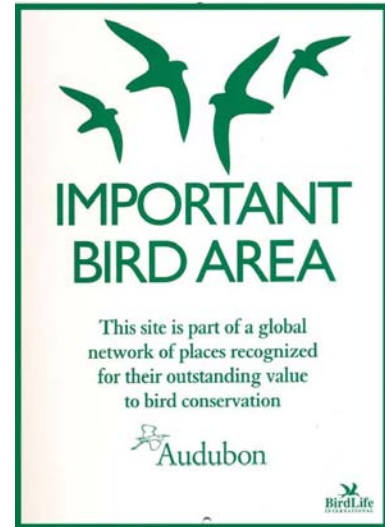
by Tom Romito, WCAS President

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." This phrase may be old, but it says what it's going to take to conduct our Important Bird Area survey for two more years. You'd think that after doing this for three years in a row, we'd have it down to a science, but that doesn't mean we can't improve.

You might wonder how we keep this project fresh so volunteers keep coming back, year after year. Well, we're going to streamline the "ramping up" process this year. Rather than having a full-blown open house and training day in the early spring like we did the last three years, we're just going to conduct a refresher session for the observers. We want to make sure their bird identification skills still meet the high standard we set in 2006. We also want to make sure the observers know how they and their recorders should fill out their data sheets. This is extremely important to making sure our data is consistent, which in turn will ensure that our survey is scientifically credible.

Another essential element of the IBA survey is the flagging of points throughout the IBA. This task falls to a small group of largely unsung volunteers who train on the use of the GPS, walk to their assigned points, and hang colored ribbons along the routes to the points and at the points. All of this work takes place before the observers and recorders begin monitoring. This is just one of the many tough jobs that must be done before we can give the Metroparks the data they need to do their important work of conservation.

We will be contacting all previous IBA volunteers by early March for this purpose. We also welcome newly interested volunteers to this



project. Please contact any board member (names and numbers on P. 6 of this newsletter).

In order to accomplish all of the above, we will need to do fundraising. You might ask, "Why is fundraising so important to the survey? Why can't people just monitor their points and be done with it?" The answer to that has to do with the coordination of all of the various aspects of the project including recruiting, planning, materials needed, data collection and entry, public outreach, etc. Our IBA Coordinator, Diane Sigler, ensures that all these things happen, and our fundraising ensures that we can pay her commensurately. One of our most important fundraisers is our annual UltraWalk which will be held on May 23, 2009. Please keep the date open and look for more info in our next newsletter, or on our website at www.wcasohio.org.

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Field Trips

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009...8:30 AM...Gordon Park at E.72 St.

Dress warmly for our field trip to the lakefront led by Tim Krynak. We will see gulls and other waterfowl at this impressive winter birding site.

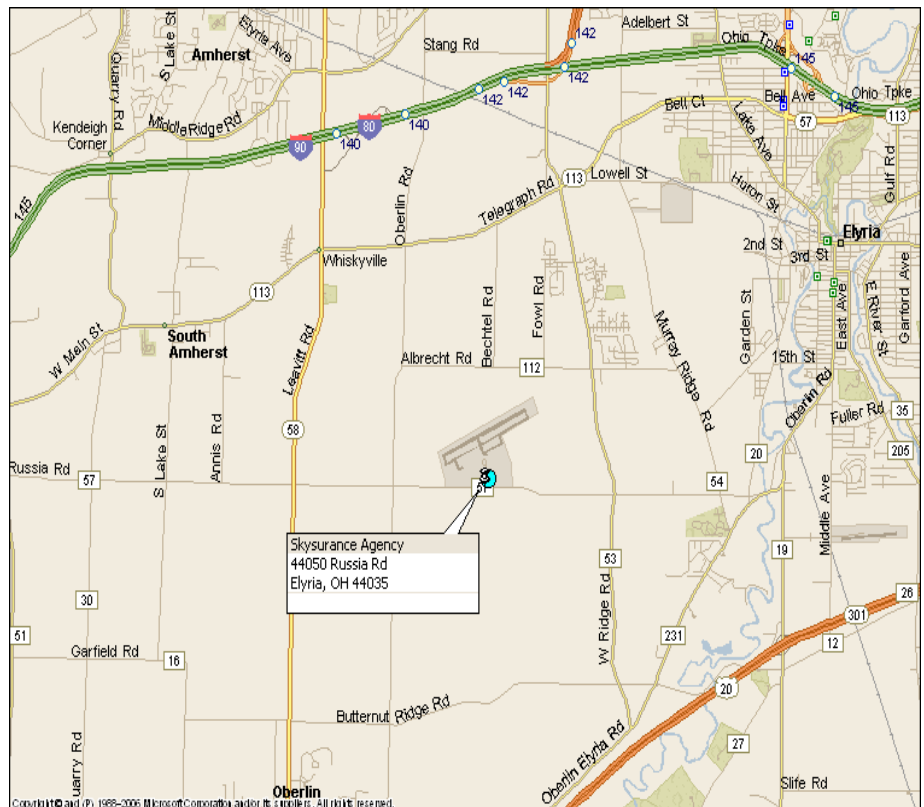
Directions: Cleveland Memorial Shoreway East (I-90 East) to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Exit at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, turn left (North). Go under the highway then turn left. Pass the first parking lot, pass the boat docks. Turn right at the stop sign into Cleveland Lakefront State Park (Gordon Park). Drive left toward the far end of the parking lot.



Sunday, March 22...8:30 AM...Lorain County Regional Airport

Liz Clingman will lead this field trip to a new area for WCAS. We hope to see Rough-legged Hawks.

Directions: Take I-90 to Route 57, or take Ohio Turnpike to Route 57 exit 145. Go south on Route 57 to Route 113. Go right (west) on Route 113. Follow Route 113 to West Ridge Rd. A huge brick church is on the left. There is a sign for Lorain Co. Regional Airport. Turn left (south) on West Ridge Rd. Pass Albrecht Rd. As you come nearer to the airport, you will pass Bethel Baptist Church on the right. Turn right on Russia Road. There is a brick building on the corner of West Ridge and Russia Road, and another sign for the airport. After about a mile you will see a driveway on the right for Skysurance. Pull into the drive and park along the blacktop. We will bird the open area near Skysurance then proceed to other locations along Fowl Road and possibly Russia Road, Albrecht, Bechtel, and West Ridge Roads. There are few places for cars to stop on the airport perimeter, so we will need to ride-share if we decide to bird some of the other spots. Plan to ride with a birding buddy



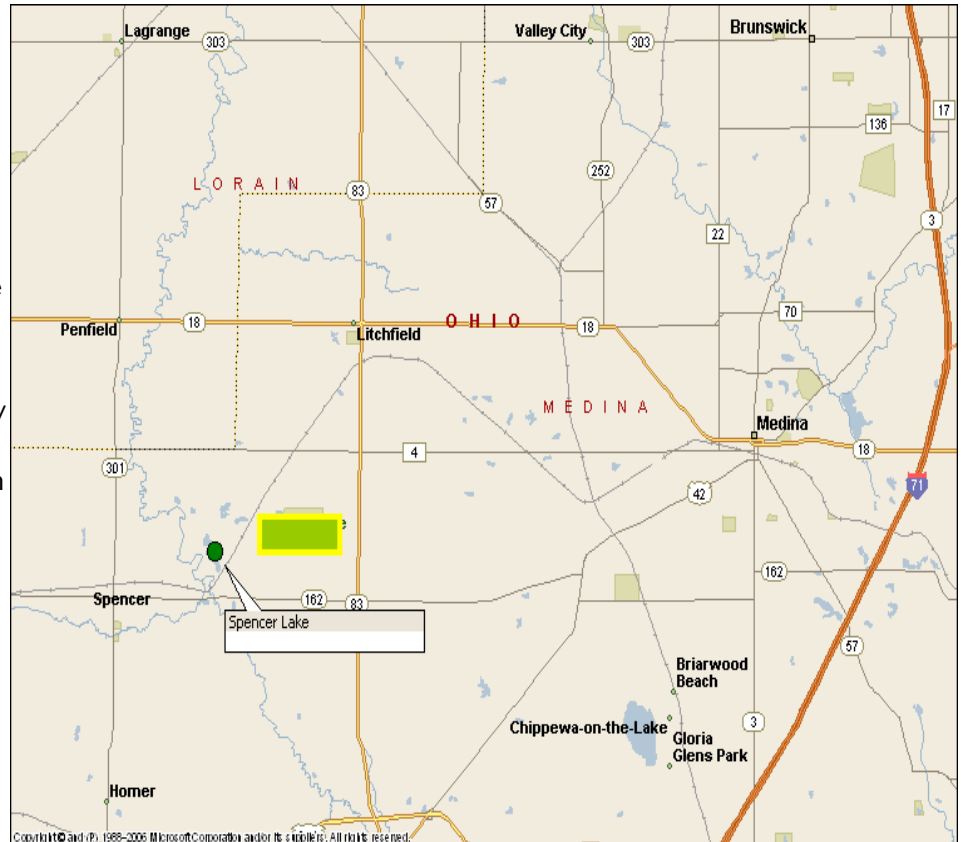
Field Trips

Saturday, April 18, 2009...9:00 AM...Medina Raptor Center

Laura Jordan will lead this field trip. We will meet at Spencer Lake Wildlife Area.

Directions:

Take I-480 West. Continue on Ohio 10 West (signs for Oberlin/State Hwy 10 W/US-20 Norwalk) Take Exit 3 toward North Ridgeville/State Hwy 80/Wooster. You will turn left at Lorain Road (signs for Wooster Avon) Follow signs to Route 83 south. Continue on Butternut Ridge/Lorain Road. Turn Right at Avon Belden Road/Ohio 83/Wooster-Avon Lake Rd. Go about 13 miles to Litchfield. There is a traffic circle in Litchfield. Continue around to the right and stay on Rte. 83. Follow Route 83 past Magical Farms Alpacos on the right. At Spencer Lake Road, turn right. Follow Spencer Lake Road past Richman Road and over train tracks until it dead-ends into Root Rd. (County Rd 58). Turn left. Entrance to Spencer Lake is on the right.



Spring Bird Walks

See the spring migrants during the Audubon spring bird walks. The walks will be held each **Sunday from April 12 to May 17, 2009, 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

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

Welcome New Members

Susan Chester
Fran Hall
Rosemary and Walt Halun
David and Justine Helm
Ned and Patricia Livegood

Richard Moore
Jay and Jean Rounds
Wendy Weirich
Gladys Weiss
Charles Wemer

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, February 3, 2009 at 7:30 PM

The Karner Blue butterfly is an endangered species in Ohio. Why? Fran LeMasters, from *All A Flutter*, will inform us on the life cycle of this butterfly, what it's specific needs are and how volunteers are helping to preserve this species. Fran will also tell us a little about her business and other native butterfly species in her presentation "*Butterflies: Bold, Beautiful and Endangered*"



Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 7:30 PM



Patience. If there is one word for film-maker, Miles Reed, it is patience. Miles' presentation, entitled "*Nesting: Wonders of Northeast Ohio*", will show us many of the nesting birds of our area. His patience has paid off in footage of species that people did not realize nested in our area. Come to learn, build your knowledge of what can be found in the parks of northeast Ohio ... and patience.

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:30 PM

Dr. Sharon Lynn from the College of Wooster will share with us research on Snow Buntings and two species of longspurs and how hormones affect the behaviors, especially parental care, of these species in her presentation, "*Caretaker or Casanova: Can the Environment Dictate Behavioral Responses to Testosterone in Songbirds?*"



**WCAS
Third Annual
UltraWalk is coming!
May 23, 2009**

Mark your calendars and plan to be where the action is on this date. A fun fundraiser for a great cause.... promoting and protecting the Rocky River Important Bird Area in our **fourth** year of the RR IBA Forest Breeding Bird Survey. Look for details on our website and in our next newsletter.

**Buzzard Sunday
March 15, 2009
VOLLUNTEERS NEEDED**

WCAS would like to have a display table set up at Hinckley Township's annual Buzzard Sunday event held at Hinckley Elementary School. This is a very popular event and would allow us to reach out to the general public with our message of protecting the Rocky River Important Bird Area, as well as educating people on the joys of birding and habitat preservation. Materials and handouts will be provided. Contact Liz Clingman at: 440-799-1881 or eclingman@sbcglobal.net

**North Coast Nature Festival
April 25th and 26th
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society would like to have a display at this year's NC Nature Festival held at Rocky River Nature Center. We need volunteers to staff our table in shifts from 9:30 to 1:30 or 1:30 to 5:00 on either day. This is a great opportunity to meet prospective new members as well as introduce our organization and projects to the general public. Please contact Liz Clingman at: 440-799-1881 or eclingman@sbcglobal.net

Citizen Science Event

The 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count...Feb. 13-16



"Count for Fun, Count for the Future" is the theme of the Great Backyard Bird Count taking place February 13 – 16, 2009. Be citizen scientists right in your own backyard, neighborhood, park or schoolyard. Have fun while you are out counting birds, but remember the data you send in is also important to the future of the birds and the habitat in which they reside.

It is easy to get involved! During the four day event you may choose to go out one day or all four **for at least 15 minutes** and keep track of the

highest number of individuals of each bird species seen at one time. The more time out in the field ... or watching your feeder ... the better! The Great Backyard Bird Count is open to ALL ages and skill levels and participation is free. Report your sightings online at www.birdcount.org and see what others in your area or around the country have reported. For more information as to how to participate log onto www.birdcount.org and

The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society

Sponsors:



Education Outreach

Science Olympiad...February 21, 2009...HELP NEEDED

On Saturday, February 21, Western Cuyahoga Audubon would like to have your assistance in setting up the **Bird Identification** portion of the **Science Olympiad** held at Cleveland State University. We have participated for several years and the middle school students really get a kick out of it. We are just one part of the **Science Olympiad** and our portion needs to be set up by 8 AM and taken down by 1 PM, so if you are considering assisting that does mean getting to CSU earlier to set up. Please let Nancy Howell know if you would be willing to take items to be set up, get the students organized, grade their "tests", and get the "grades" to the organizers. I can be reached at nhowell@cmnh.org or 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 (work) or 440-891-1710 (home).



Photo courtesy of Dave LeGallee

I need your response by Feb. 10st!

Christmas Bird Count News

Our 2008 Christmas Bird Count results for Lakewood (west side of Cleveland) Count Sunday, December 28, 2008 are in.

Despite the windy conditions, this was one of the best Christmas Counts with regard to the number of species seen. Sixty-nine species were sighted the day of the CBC and four species during count week (cw).

Morning temperatures hovered around 60 degrees, but a fast moving cold front brought drizzle and rain, then decreasing temperatures throughout the day. By the end of the day the

temperature was down to 28 degrees. What was the ultimate worst was the wind, initially coming from the south, but then swinging around from the west – northwest at 30 mph gusting up to 40 + mph. That is **windy!!!** Seeing as well as hearing birds in the wind was difficult. Where the birds could hide from the wind there was better luck. Lake Erie was pretty much wide open hence not concentrating gulls or waterfowl.

Nancy Howell, compiler
Lakewood Christmas Bird Count
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society

1. Canada Goose	999	24. Cooper's Hawk	14	50. Brown Creeper	1
<i>Tundra Swan (12-27-08)</i>	<i>cw</i>	25. Red-shouldered Hawk	3	51. Carolina Wren	10
2. Wood Duck	2	26. Red-tailed Hawk	20	52. Winter Wren	2
3. American Black Duck	24	27. Merlin	1	<i>Marsh Wren (12/30/08)</i>	<i>cw</i>
4. Mallard	1003	28. Peregrine Falcon	1	<i>Hermit Thrush (12/29/08)</i>	<i>cw</i>
5. American Widgeon	2	29. American Coot	1	53. American Robin	338
6. Northern Pintail	124	30. Bonaparte's Gull	5590	54. Northern Mockingbird	2
7. Northern Shoveler	2	31. Ring-billed Gull	12,646	55. European Starling	1143
8. Green-winged Teal	1	32. Herring Gull	545	56. Yellow-rumped Warbler	3
9. Ring-necked Duck	4	33. Great black-backed Gull	41	57. American Tree Sparrow	97
10. Greater Scaup	18	34. Glaucous Gull	1	58. Song Sparrow	25
11. Lesser Scaup	144	35. Rock Pigeon	146	59. Swamp Sparrow	4
12. Surf Scoter	3	36. Mourning Dove	135	60. White-throated Sparrow	14
13. Black Scoter	5	37. Eastern Screech Owl	1	61. Chipping Sparrow	2
14. White-winged Scoter	4	38. Belted Kingfisher	2	62. Dark-eyed Junco	179
15. Bufflehead	158	39. Red-bellied Woodpecker	29	63. Northern Cardinal	132
16. Common Goldeneye	253	40. Downy Woodpecker	69	64. Red-winged Blackbird	4
17. Long-tailed Duck	2	41. Hairy Woodpecker	15	65. Common Grackle	1
18. Common Merganser	11	42. Northern Flicker	2	66. House Finch	156
19. Red-breasted Merganser	56	43. Pileated Woodpecker	3	67. Pine Siskin	83
20. Hooded Merganser	1	44. Blue Jay	73	68. American Goldfinch	168
<i>Wild Turkey (12-27-08)</i>	<i>cw</i>	45. American Crow	46	69. House Sparrow	336
21. Great Blue Heron	3	46. Black-capped Chickadee	171		
22. Bald Eagle	5	47. Tufted Titmouse	49		
23. Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	48. Red-breasted Nuthatch	4		
		49. White-breasted Nuthatch	49		

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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Kathleen Tiburzi

What's at Stake?
Help Save Our Migratory Birds!

Each spring, millions of birds travel thousands of miles from Latin America and the Caribbean to their breeding grounds as far north as the Arctic. Months later, as the temperature drops and winter sets in, these migrants make the long trip back to warmer southern climates. These neotropical migrants face increasing threats—habitat loss, invasive species, disease, and a changing climate. Since its inception in 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act has provided millions of dollars for vital conservation efforts, including monitoring efforts, habitat restoration, education, and other projects in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. **But many essential conservation projects remain unfunded.**

Please urge your U.S. Representative and Senators to cosponsor legislation to reauthorize this vital program with increased funding.

Personalized letters have the most impact. Please edit the sample letter below to explain why protecting migratory songbirds is important to you:

U.S. House of Representatives	
House Office Building	(202) 224-3121
Washington, DC 20510	www.house.gov
U.S. Senate	
Senate Office Building	(202) 224-3121
Washington, DC 20510	www.senate.gov

What's At Stake?
Help Raptors, Stop the Illegal Killing

Citizens across the United States were appalled to learn last spring that pigeon enthusiasts in Oregon, California, and Texas have intentionally been killing Cooper's Hawks, Peregrine Falcons and Red-tailed Hawks that they feared might prey upon their pigeons.

The raptors were killed by hobbyists who breed pigeons to carry a genetic trait that causes them to stop flying and tumble in the air before righting themselves and carrying on. These "roller pigeons" are flown in competitions and scored by judges who rate the birds on the quality of the "roll" and other factors. Of course, the pigeon rolling through the air looks like crippled and vulnerable prey to a hawk, falcon, or other bird of prey. Many of these pigeon enthusiasts have been routinely killing raptors in an attempt to protect their roller pigeons.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that as

Dear [Decision Maker]

As a supporter of the National Audubon Society, a constituent, and someone who cares about protecting the world's migratory birds, I strongly urge you to cosponsor HR 5756/S 3490 to reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

The Act supports vital conservation projects in 44 U.S. states and territories, 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries, and 12 Canadian provinces, benefiting roughly 3 million acres of migratory bird habitat.

Sadly, many projects still need funding. Current funding can not keep pace with applications for grants. Without increases in funding, the songs of Cerulean Warblers and many other neotropical birds may soon fade from America's landscapes.

HR 5756/S 3490 would reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and provide a much-needed increase in vital conservation dollars.

Migratory birds are more than just a treasured part of our natural world; they also play a critical role in supporting economic and recreational opportunities across the country. I strongly urge you to support **HR 5756/S 3490** and stand up for America's songbirds.

Sincerely,

many as **2,000 to 3,000 raptors were being killed on the West Coast each year using methods including poisoning, beating birds to death with clubs, and suffocation in plastic bags.** Even more troubling is the fact that the thirteen men charged with these crimes received little more than a slap on the wrist after pleading guilty. Currently, killing a protected bird is a Class B Misdemeanor under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which puts suffocating a Peregrine Falcon in the same category as unauthorized use of the image of Smokey Bear.

Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon has introduced legislation that would amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 so that the intentional killing of protected bird species would be considered a felony, rather than the current Class B Misdemeanor.

HR 4093 would send a strong message to prosecutors and courts that Congress takes these crimes seriously. It would pave the way for significant fines (up to \$50,000) and jail sentences (up to 1 year) for the most serious bird-related crimes. You can read the text of the legislation at: thomas.loc.gov.



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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**

