



Remember WCAS in your giving plans!

By Tom Romito, President

Americans are bombarded everyday by charities asking for money. The Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society is no different. We're asking you to include WCAS in your will or retirement plans.

If you have not yet written a will, we urge you to do so. A properly-prepared will is the only way to be sure that your wishes will be carried out after your lifetime. It is important that you have your will prepared by an attorney who understands your needs and is familiar with the laws of Ohio. If you have already written your will, you may add a bequest to WCAS by asking your attorney to prepare an amendment or codicil. Your attorney may find the following paragraph helpful in preparing your will:

"I bequeath to the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, a non-profit organization with its principal offices located at 4310 Bush Ave., Cleveland, OH 44109 and tax ID number of 34-1522665, the sum of \$_____ for its general unrestricted purposes in environment conservation."

You can save taxes by naming WCAS as the beneficiary of your estate, trust, or other financial plan. Assets remaining in your plan at your death will otherwise be subject to estate and income taxes in the hands of your heirs. A good way to maximize benefits is to bequeath cash, securities, and real property to your family and leave your financial plan assets to WCAS. To name WCAS as a beneficiary of the assets in your retirement plan, you should request a beneficiary designation form from the plan sponsor.

Special March Program - See Page 5

WCAS Elections Moved to April

Many of us will remember that WCAS elections were held at the May general meeting last year. However, the timing of that meeting corresponds with The Biggest Week in American Birding (for details, go to <http://biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/>) For this reason, the WCAS board has decided to move the election up to April.

Therefore, elections for the offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and Directors at Large will be held at the April 1 general meeting at the Rocky River Nature Center. Nominations can be made now by calling or emailing a Board member (see page 7 for contact information), through the website (click on 'Contact Us'), or at meetings before elections.

The Board urges members to participate. You may nominate yourself or willing members. Please be certain the person/people you nominate are willing to serve. Officeholders become Board members. The Board typically meets once a month. Help shape who we are and what

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FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, February 2, 9:00 a.m. West Creek & Tour of Watershed Stewardship Center

Trip Leader: Tim Krynak
Target Species: Winter Residents

West Creek Reservation is home to the Watershed Stewardship Center, which opened in Summer 2013. Tim Krynak will lead our bird walk through fields and forest to see winter residents. Our field trip includes a tour of the Watershed Stewardship Center.

More about the Watershed Stewardship Center is at: <http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/Facilities/Watershed-Stewardship-Center-at-West-Creek-10.aspx>

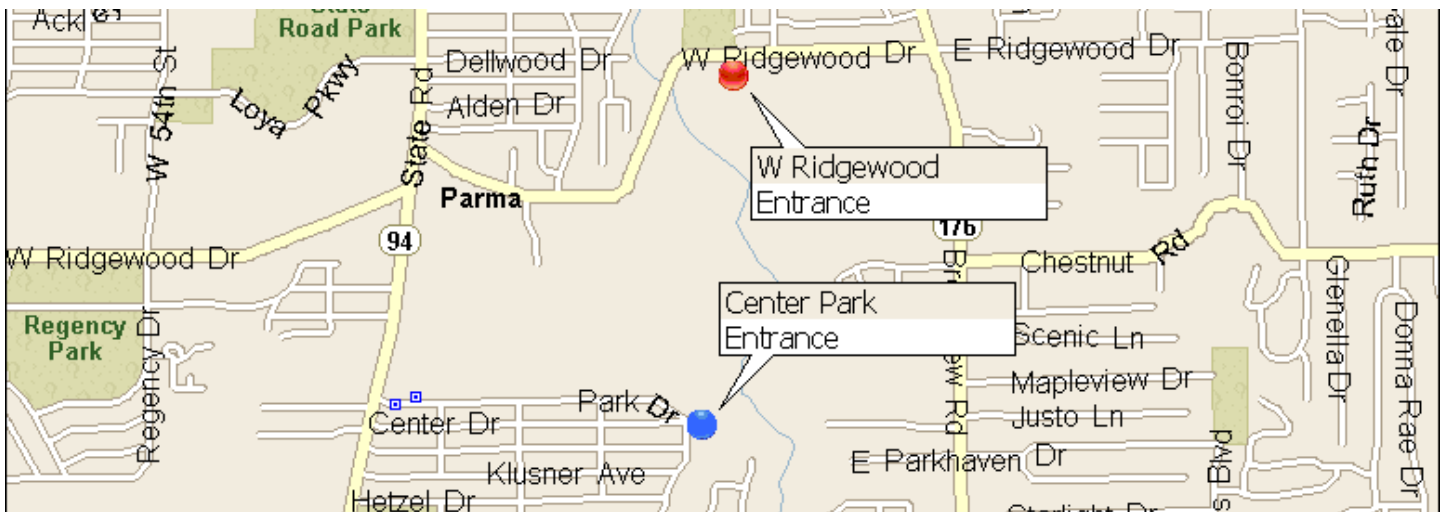
Directions to West Creek and the Watershed Stewardship Center, 2277 West Ridgewood Dr., Parma

From Cleveland:

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

From I-480:

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



Sunday, February 9, 9 a.m. Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Trip Leaders: Christine Cain (LENSC) and Nancy Howell (WCAS)
Target Species: Winter Residents

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center is located in the Huntington Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks. Barred Owls regularly nest near the nature center, and a variety of habitat offers winter shelter for birds. Depending on weather and lake conditions, we will also look for wintering waterfowl and gulls. Following our walk we will learn how to take part in the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count, which takes place February 14-17. Learn more about the Great Backyard Bird Count at:

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center is located at 28728 Wolf Rd. in Bay Village.

Map and directions to Lake Erie Nature and Science Center:

www.wcasohio.org/Lake_Erie_Nature_and_Science_Center.htm

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 8, 8:00 a.m. **Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain Metro Parks**

Leader: Josh Michalski

Target species: Waterfowl, American Woodcock, Sandhill Crane, Eastern Meadowlark

Water birds return in spring to Northeast Ohio's ponds, lakes and wetlands. Sandy Ridge has some of the best habitat in North-east Ohio. In addition, there is a good possibility to see Bald Eagles and Eastern Bluebirds.

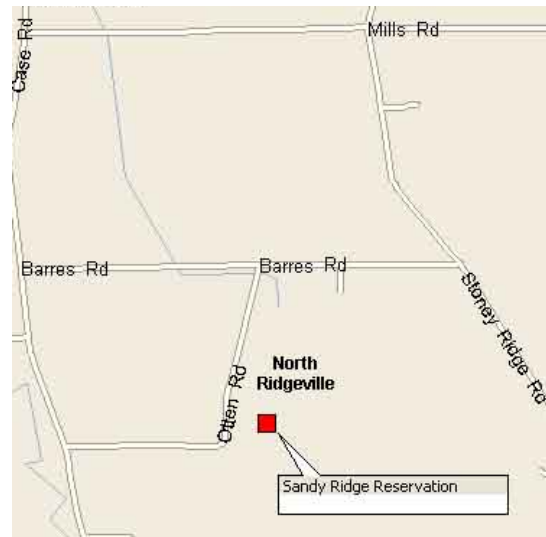
Meet at the Johnson Wetland Center, 6195 Otten Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039.

Map and directions are at:

http://www.wcasohio.org/sandy_ridge_reservation.htm

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.

Alternatively, take I-480 to Clague Road., turn right (north) on Clague to Center Ridge Road (Rt. 20), turn left (west) on Center Ridge to Case Rd., right on Case Rd., right on Otten Rd. to Sandy Ridge.



Saturday, April 19, 8 AM **South Mastick Field Trip**

Leaders: Rich & Karen Kassouf

Target Species: Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Bald Eagle, Early Migrants

South Mastick Picnic Area hosts a great variety of birds found in the Rocky River Important Bird Area. Rich and Karen Kassouf bird here often. We have a good chance to see six or seven species of woodpecker at this time of year, as well as some of the residents listed above.

South Mastick Picnic Area is on Valley Parkway, just south of Puritas and Mastick Roads, at the Cleveland/Fairview Park border. Meet at the large shelter.

Map and directions are at: www.wcasohio.org/south_mastick_picnic_area.htm

April & May **Audubon Spring Bird Walks** **The Last 3 Sundays in April and the First 3 Sundays in May)**

See the spring migrants during the Audubon spring bird walks. The walks will be held **each Sunday from April 13 to May 18, 2014, at 7:30 a.m.** The following is a partial list of local walks: Lake Isaac in Middleburg Hts. Hinckley Reservation at bridge on State Rd. CanalWay Center in Cuyahoga Hts. Rocky River Nature Center, North Olmsted, Station Rd. Bridge Trailhead, Brecksville.

A complete listing of all the walks can be seen at:

www.wcasohio.org/spring_bird_walks.htm

For all birders, this is a wonderful opportunity to sample the waves of birds moving through some of the top birding spots around Cleveland. New birders, be sure to be out on each of these six Sundays. It is a great way to start birding.

Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland conducts these walks in cooperation with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, local park districts and the Holden Arboretum. Walks are led by expert volunteers from Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and other local birding groups. The walks are free to all.

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, North Olmsted, Ohio. For a map & directions see www.wcasohio.org.

Tuesday, February 4, 7:30 PM

***More Than You Ever Wanted to Know about Squirrels (and Then Some):
Social Behaviors, Mating Systems, and Population Genetics of Fox and
Gray Squirrels***



Grey Squirrel, courtesy of
Google Images

Dr. Karen Munroe from Baldwin-Wallace University is often asked, "Why do you study squirrels?" As ecosystem engineers, squirrels play an important role in our environment. Dr. Munroe and her students have been conducting research on two squirrel species right on the B-W campus. In her program, **"More Than You Ever Wanted to Know about Squirrels (and Then Some): Social Behaviors, Mating Systems, and Population Genetics of Fox and Gray Squirrels"** the hope is that through basic ecological research, better habitat management decisions can be made, both in our backyard and globally!



Fox Squirrel, courtesy of
Google Images

Note Special Date & Time:

**Sunday, March 9, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Auditorium**

**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Kirtland Bird Club, and Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland
present the following special event:**

"The Lost Bird Project" and Saving Species from Extinction

One hundred years ago this September, Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon, fell dead in her cage at the Cincinnati Zoo. With her death, the Passenger Pigeon, once the most numerous bird species in the world, became extinct.

The stunning loss of this and other species helped garner support for the modern conservation movement. As a result, many species have been nurtured back to healthy populations and their habitats have been preserved. Yet even now, in the 21st century, we still hear about an impending extinction crisis that prompts us to ask the following questions:

What have we learned from the extinction of these once common species?

How are we keeping the memory of these extinct species alive and relevant?

How are we helping to strengthen wildlife populations today and preserve the habitats that are necessary for their survival?

How can people become involved and help?

The program will attempt to answer these questions through a viewing of the film, the *"Lost Bird Project,"* followed by a panel discussion. The film highlights the work of artist Todd McGrain and his effort to create memorials for five extinct species close to the area where the last of their kind lived.

Following the film, we will convene a panel of local experts who will speak about their efforts to improve the future for wild things and wild places, both regionally and across the planet. We envision a lively discussion between panelists and the audience about successful strategies for preserving habitats and species, including how participants can become involved.

Continued on page 5 - March Program

PROGRAMS

March Program - continued from page 4

For more information, contact any of the following organizational officers:

Tom Romito, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, at tomromito@ameritech.net

Mark Demyan, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, at mjd.cconst@gmail.com

Lukas Padegimas, Kirtland Bird Club, at Lukas_Padegimas@sbcglobal.net



Free Admission!
Free Parking!
Free Refreshments!

UNIQUE FRIEND-RAISER!

We encourage you to
bring a friend!
HECK! BRING TWO!

Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 PM



Denise
Ellsworth

Phenology is the study of recurring biological phenomena and the relationship to weather and climate. Bird migration, blooming of wildflowers and trees, and the seasonal appearance of insects are examples of phenological events that have been recorded for centuries. In the program, "Phenology: An Age-old Science Useful in the Modern Day", Denise Ellsworth of the OSU Department of Entomology, will share with us how phenology tells us what's blooming, what insect activity is in the near future and how birds are affected by what is being seen.



Metroparks Monthly Morning with the Birds at Rocky River Nature Center

Want to learn more about birds in the Rocky River Valley? Attend Rocky River Nature Center's Monthly Morning with the Birds. See the WCAS calendar at www.wcasohio.org or check the Emerald Necklace www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/NewslettersPublicationsArchives.aspx

Note Time Change

February 8, 9 a.m.

March 15, 9 a.m.

April 26, 8 a.m.

May 10, 8 a.m.

Enjoy a walk with Naturalist Ken Gober along wetlands & through forest. Rocky River Nature Center is located at 24000 Valley Parkway in Rocky River Reservation, north of Cedar Point Road in North Olmsted.

VOLUNTEER SECTION

Volunteers Opportunities

Members, **YOU** can help with activities and events. WCAS provides display materials. Contact Penny O'Connor pjo@earthlink.net or (216)676-4859, for more information or to volunteer.

Social Media Content Creator to expand WCAS presence on Facebook, Twitter and more. Training provided. Contact Nora Ebie. wcasboard@gmail.com

Science Fair Judge to select winners at the Northeastern Science and Engineering Fair at Cleveland State University on Tuesday, March 11, 1-6 p.m. Encourage teens studying birds, conservation and local watersheds.

Buzzard Sunday is Sunday, March 16, in Hinckley at the Elementary School. Hey, it's Turkey Vulture Appreciation Day! See the "buzzards," eat pancakes, and tell visitors about Audubon.

EarthFest is Sunday, April 13, at the Berea Fairgrounds, 10 am - 5 pm. There will be 250 exhibits, including WCAS!. Before or after your shift, you will have a chance to enjoy this fun and educational event.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT LAKEWOOD (WEST SIDE OF CLEVELAND) 2013 RESULTS ... ALMOST!

By Nancy Howell



Nancy Howell and Chris Pierce
By Penny O'Conner

In order to get this into the newsletter on time, only the species sighted on count day or during count week are listed. Complete results with numbers, any adjustments (additions or deletions of species) and the list of participants will be on the WCAS website by the end of January.

The 2013 Christmas Bird Count for the Lakewood Circle had fabulous groups of birders from very experienced to beginners scouring the area. The mild weather, with temperatures in the lower 40's, overcast skies and a light drizzle to showers did not deter the participants. Lake Erie and moving waters, such as

rivers and streams were open. Smaller lakes and ponds were iced over. Large amounts of fruits were on trees and shrubs in certain areas. All in all a great day with great coverage of the count circle thanks to all of the folks participating. The list below of 87 species on count day/count week is fantastic with some nice surprises. A couple species need further verification so the list may change. Count week species are in *italics*, rare or unusual species are in **bold**.



Oriole Nest
By Penny O'Conner

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Canada Goose | 31. Red-tailed Hawk | 60. Blue Jay |
| 2. Ross's Goose | 32. Red-shouldered Hawk | 61. <i>Horned Lark</i> |
| 3. Trumpeter Swan | 33. Rough-legged Hawk | 62. Black-capped Chickadee |
| 4. Mallard | 34. American Kestrel | 63. Tufted Titmouse |
| 5. American Black Duck | 35. Merlin | 64. White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 6. Wood Duck | 36. Peregrine Falcon | 65. Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| 7. Redhead | 37. American Coot | 66. Brown Creeper |
| 8. Canvasback | 38. Ring-billed Gull | 67. Carolina Wren |
| 9. Ring-necked Duck | 39. Herring Gull | 68. Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 10. Greater Scaup | 40. Great Black-backed Gull | 69. Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| 11. Lesser Scaup | 41. Lesser Black-backed Gull | 70. Eastern Bluebird |
| 12. White-winged Scoter | 42. Iceland Gull | 71. American Robin |
| 13. Black Scoter | 43. Bonaparte's Gull | 72. Northern Mockingbird |
| 14. Surf Scoter | 44. Rock Pigeon | 73. European Starling |
| 15. Bufflehead | 45. Mourning Dove | 74. Cedar Waxwing |
| 16. Common Goldeneye | 46. Great Horned Owl | 75. American Tree Sparrow |
| 17. Long-tailed Duck | 47. Barred Owl | 76. Song Sparrow |
| 18. Red-breasted Merganser | 48. Eastern Screech Owl | 77. Swamp Sparrow |
| 19. Hooded Merganser | 49. Snowy Owl | 78. White-throated Sparrow |
| 20. Common Merganser | 50. Short-eared Owl | 79. Dark-eyed Junco |
| 21. Ruddy Duck | 51. Belted Kingfisher | 80. <i>Lapland Longspur</i> |
| 22. <i>Wild Turkey</i> | 52. Red-headed Woodpecker | 81. Snow Bunting |
| 23. Common Loon | 53. Red-bellied Woodpecker | 82. Northern Cardinal |
| 24. Horned Grebe | 54. Downy Woodpecker | 83. Red-winged Blackbird |
| 25. Pied-billed Grebe | 55. Hairy Woodpecker | 84. Common Grackle |
| 26. Double-crested Cormorant | 56. Northern Flicker | 85. House Finch |
| 27. Great Blue Heron | 57. Pileated Woodpecker | 86. American Goldfinch |
| 28. Bald Eagle | 58. Northern Shrike | 87. House Sparrow |
| 29. Northern Harrier | 59. American Crow | |
| 30. Cooper's Hawk | | |

The Ohio Young Birders Club A Newly Formed Organization

The Ohio Young Birders Club, based out of Black Swamp Bird Observatory has a new chapter in North-east Ohio. This new regional chapter hopes to serve students ages 12-18 in the northeast Ohio area. The group recently held an open house at Rocky River Nature Center where over 50 people and 17 interested students learned more about the group from Kim Kaufman, Executive Director of Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO), Kate Zimmerman, Education Director for BSBO and Bev Walborn, Adult Advisor for the chapter. Representatives from Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Kirtland Bird Club, Cleveland Metroparks and Nature Center at Shaker Lakes provided much support by attending the open house and sharing information about what they can offer these young birders. The chapter will be offering field trips to young birders and welcomes new students interested in learning more about birds and nature. More information about becoming part of the NE OYBC chapter can be obtained from the Ohio Young Birders Club website at: www.ohioyoungbirders.org or by contacting Bev Walborn at bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com.

Below are field trips planned for the spring. If students would like to attend a field trip, contact Bev to register and receive the details.

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

Sat. Feb. 8, All Day

Leaders: BSBO staff

Birding Trumbull County

Sat. March 15, 9am-3 pm

Leader: Larry Richardson

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Sat. April 5

Time and Leader TBA

International Migratory Bird Day

Sat. May 10, All Day

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

Oak Harbor, Ohio

Leaders: BSBO staff

Bird Banding

Mon. May 26, 7am

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

Leaders: Julie West, Gary Neuman

Carbon Offset Project Update

Money generated through this project will go toward habitat preservation & restoration in the Rocky River IBA or other area within the range of WCAS. Consider contributing to the Carbon Offset Project when you take a birding trip. The WCAS website has more information & a form to calculate the amount you wish to donate. Click on Field Trip then Carbon Offset Project.

Total collected to date - \$695.26

Welcome New Members



Alice Bocchicchio
Tony Bocchicchio
Fran Demyan
Ann Gilmore
Rose Mary Hovan
Mark Kreidler

SAY NO TO WIND TURBINES AT CAMP PERRY!

Learn more about the American Bird Conservancy campaign to keep wind turbines out of a major bird migration path. http://cts.vresp.com/c/?WesternCuyahogaAudub/d0bec322ad/97485c6d4b/a7fb6aa2d0/action_KEY=16153

Contact Us

WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4310 Bush Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109
Phone: 216-741-2352



Visit our website

www.wcasohio.org

Check us out on Facebook

www.facebook.com/wcasohio

WCAS Chapter Newsletter

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Audubon Society

www.wcasohio.org is the
official Chapter Web Site

Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/wcasohio

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

President

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

Vice President

Nora Ebie, 216-688-1758

Treasurer

Nancy Howell, 440-891-1710

Newsletter Editor

Kurt Miske, 440-835-6700

Webmaster

Mary Anne Romito, 216-741-2352

Field Trip Coordinator

Penny O'Connor, 216-676-4859

Directors at Large

Liz Clingman

Kit Birch

Stan Searles

Suzanne Aldrich

Mark Hofelich



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Educating our community about conservation of the natural world through member involvement and community outreach

www.wcasohio.org

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 & a window cling.	Check one:	1 or 2 people	Family	Organization
	Dues	\$20	\$35	\$55
Additional Donation (Check one)	\$5	\$10	\$20	Other
			\$_____	Total enclosed
				\$_____

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP
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Make your check payable to WCAS. Mail to Nancy Howell, treasurer, 19340 Fowles Rd., Middleburg Hts. Ohio, 44130

