



“Vision 2020” for the Rocky River IBA

by Kit Birch

At a meeting in August 2009, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society board members made the bold decision to begin planning for life after our five year bird survey ends in 2010. As you know, WCAS has been documenting forest breeding bird populations in the Rocky River Important Bird Area for four years. It was decided that we now needed input from interested parties in order to determine the current and future needs of the East Branch of the Rocky River (which includes the Rocky River Important Bird Area).

To this end Tom Romito, WCAS president, sent an invitation out to “stakeholders” to participate in a “**Vision 2020**” brainstorming session on November 16, 2009. Stan Searles, Curator of Birds & Aquatics at the Cleveland Zoo, arranged for us to use the Windows on the World Room of the Reinberger Building, and also procured a facilitator to run the meeting. The stakeholders included representatives from these various entities: Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Rocky River Watershed Council, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of the Crooked River, West Creek Preservation Committee, League of Women Voters, Hinckley Township Trustees, and Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Twenty-eight interested people showed up and happily participated in a spirited discussion on many aspects of our local conservation priorities. Fueled by a common desire to find ways to promote and protect the whole Rocky River watershed (as well as by delicious catered meals), we worked on the following areas:



Brainstorming Group © Penny O'Connor

Land Acquisition, Conservation and Restoration
Education and Stewardship
Appplied Research
Development Plan
Partnerships
Practices and Policies
Marketing the IBA

The written results of this meeting have been distributed to all who attended to take back to their boards for discussion. We hope to get everyone back together again within six months and also to poll them on what they are already doing, and what they plan to get started on soon, in regards to our agreed upon goals and objectives. By networking with these stakeholders WCAS hopes to build an alliance towards a greener watershed which, of course, will also provide a better bird habitat. Please contact a board member if you have questions or would like to participate in this process.

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Field Trips

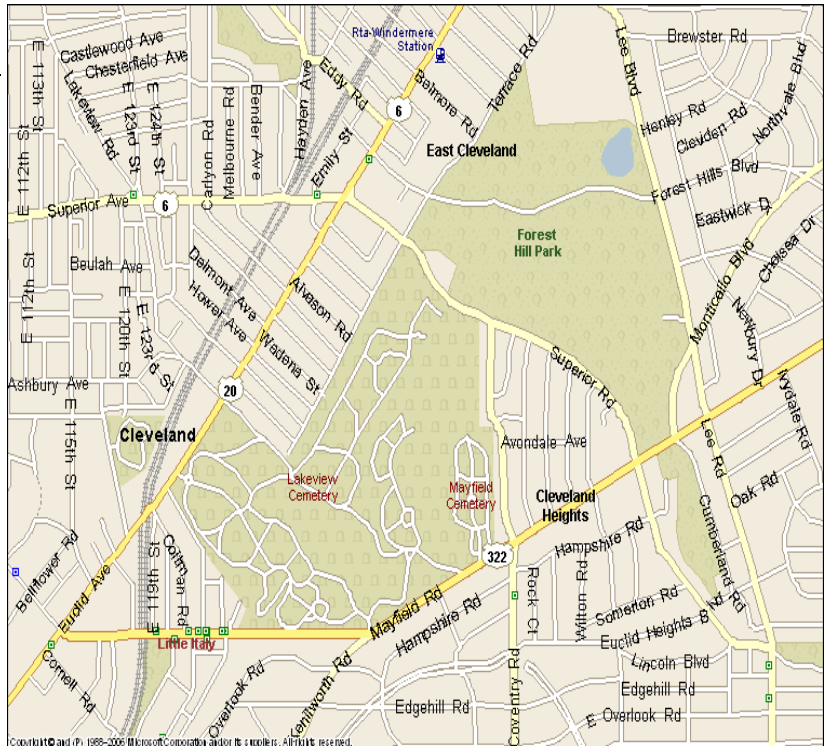
Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010...9 AM...Lake View Cemetery

Our leaders for this trip to a great birding site in Cleveland will be Dick and Jean Hoffmann, who have compiled a book on the birds of **Lake View Cemetery**. We will be looking for unusual northern visitors, such as white-winged crossbills. **Please meet and park by the Cemetery Office** located at the Euclid Ave. entrance (stone building with modern front).

Directions:

From west side: Take I-90 to Chester Ave. exit, downtown Cleveland. Follow Chester Ave east about 3 miles to Euclid Ave. Turn left, go east on Euclid Ave. past Mayfield Rd intersection. Cemetery entrance is on the right, just past E 123rd St. Enter and turn right to Cemetery Office building.

From east side: Take I-271 to US 322 Mayfield Rd Exit. Follow Mayfield Rd. west about 7 miles. Go past Coventry Rd, watch for Cemetery entrance on the right. Follow signs downhill to Cemetery Office.



Saturday, March 20, 2010...8:30 AM...Lakeview Park, Lorain

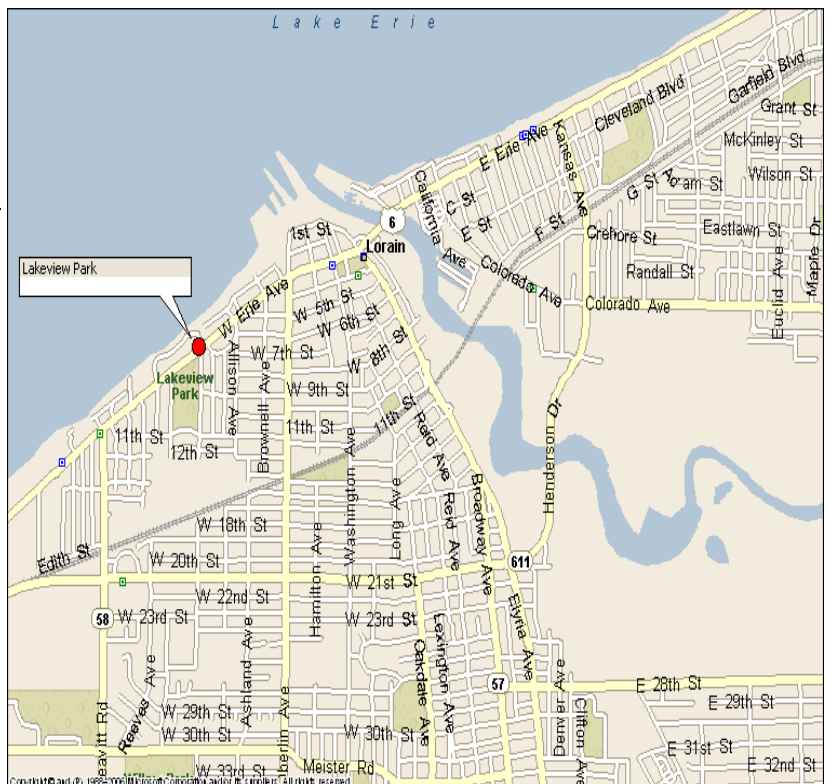
The Lorain Metropark's **Lakeview Park** offers a wide beach with views of breakwalls and Lorain Harbor for our birding pleasure. **We will meet at the Rose Café** in the park for morning coffee, and lunch together following the field trip if you like. Traci Grandel and Gary Gerrone will be our leaders.

Directions:

From east via Lake Rd., follow US 6/Lake Rd. into Lorain. Go past Broadway Ave. and Lakeview Park will be on the right side.

From Route 2, exit at Rt. 611/Colorado Ave. Go northwest toward Lorain. Stay to the right on Colorado Ave. into Lorain. Turn left onto Rt. 6. Go over the Black River, go past Broadway Ave. Lakeview Park will be on your right.

From the Turnpike, take exit 140/Rt. 58 Amherst-Oberlin. Go north on Rt. 58 to Rt. 6. Turn right onto Rt. 6 and go about 0.5 miles. Lakeview Park will be on your left.



Field Trips

Saturday, April 10, 2010...8 AM...South Mastic, Metroparks

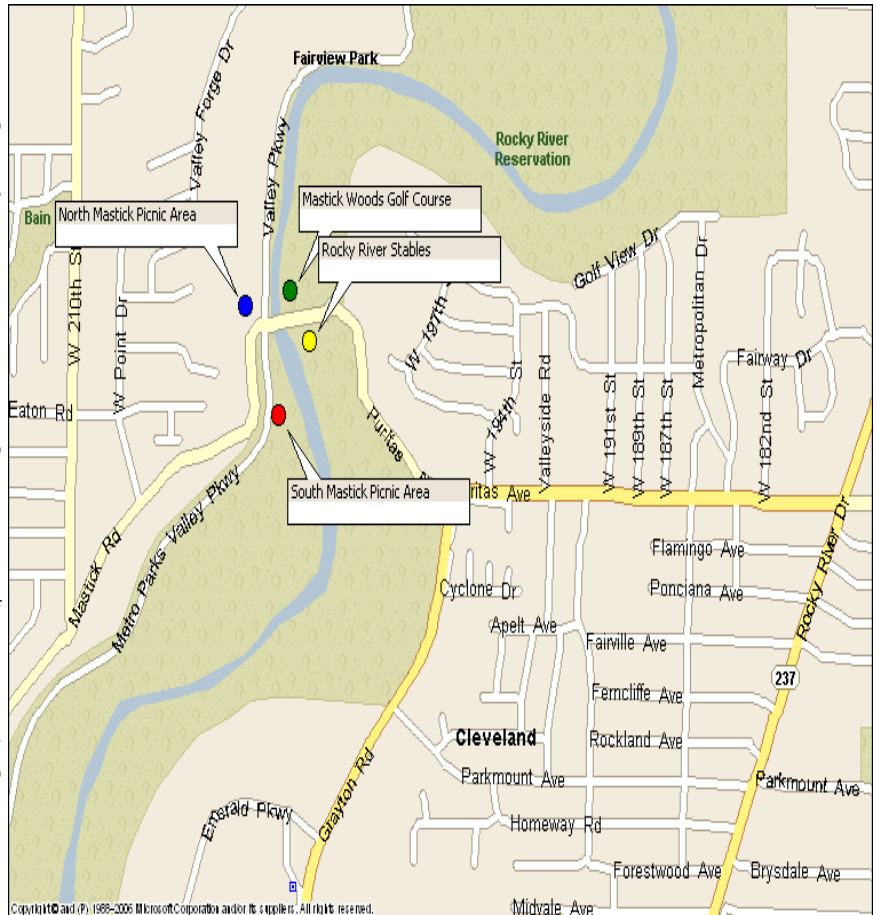
Dave Graskemper will lead us as we bird trails by the bank of the Rocky River, in the Rocky River Important Bird Area. This area has been home to nesting Bald Eagles, and early April is a great time to see woodpeckers, including migrating Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Please join us by South Mastic and Cottonwood Picnic areas. We will choose the trails according to recent sightings in the area.

Directions:

Via I-480, take Grayton Rd/Airport exit. Follow Grayton Rd. north until it dead-ends at Puritas Rd. Turn left and go down hill; turn left at Valley Parkway. Watch for South Mastick sign on the left. Meet in parking area.

Via Valley Parkway: From Lakewood, follow Valley Parkway south, go past golf courses. After passing Mastick Rd., watch for South Mastick picnic area sign on left. Meet in parking area.

From North Olmsted or Berea: Take Valley Parkway north, past RRNC, and go under the bridges for Brook Park Rd. and I-480. Follow road to South Mastick Picnic area on the right. Meet in parking area.



Spring Bird Walks

See the spring migrants during the Audubon spring bird walks. The walks will be held each **Sunday from April 11 to May 16, 2010, 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

Nancy Brewer
Gayle Fisher
Paula Kramer

Charlene Willoughby
Gerianne Hannibal
Claudia Meyke

Jerry Crouse



Citizen Science Events

The 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count...Feb. 12-15



"Count for Fun, Count for the Future" is the theme of the Great Backyard Bird Count taking place February 12-15, 2010. 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 see how you can help the birds.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. Sponsors are Wild Birds Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cornell Information Technologies, and the National Science Foundation.

Weeders In The Wild

Wendtwood, Lorain County

Along the west branch of the Rocky River
April 17, 2010 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Cleveland Museum of Natural History staff will join us on this privately owned conservation easement property. Enjoy a wonderful hike as we scout for garlic mustard. Hopefully we'll see the Trumpeter Swans. Bring a snack and binoculars.

RSVP by calling Terri Martincik at 440-759-8220
A map will be forwarded to participants.

Bacon Woods, Lorain Metroparks

In the Vermilion River Reservation

April 24, 2010 Saturday 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

April 25, 2010, Sunday 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

There are two opportunities to pull garlic mustard this weekend. We will celebrate HerbFair with Lorain Metroparks by pulling garlic mustard in Bacon Woods. Bacon Woods is an amazing place with many types of spring wildflowers. Join us in our efforts to maintain the diversity.

Call Terri Martincik at 440-759-8220 for more info.

National Audubon Praises EPA'S Finding on Carbon Emissions

Excerpt of EPA Announcement: After a thorough examination of the scientific evidence and careful consideration of public comments, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that greenhouse gases (GHGs) threaten the public health and welfare of the American people. EPA also finds that GHG emissions from on-road vehicles contribute to that threat.

"These long-overdue findings cement 2009's place in history as the year when the

U.S. Government began addressing the challenge of greenhouse-gas pollution and seizing the opportunity of clean-energy reform," said EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. John Flicker, President of National Audubon Society, said this announcement reflects Audubon's own report on *Birds & Climate Change* and is a courageous step in addressing global warming pollution, which poses a significant threat to human health and the environment we share with birds and other wildlife.

Christmas Bird Count News

What a fabulous Christmas Bird Count held on Sunday, December 27. Thanks to the teams and individuals who went out and scoured our region or watched feeders within the count circle. Weather held out and we tallied more species than can be recalled in awhile...some nice surprises too! The list below has not been completely finalized, but

take a look at the species seen the day of the count. Those in **bold** are species that are a little more unusual and those with (cw) were seen count week.

Nancy Howell, compiler

Lakewood Christmas Bird Count
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society

1. Canada Goose
2. **Tundra Swan**
3. Wood Duck
4. Mallard
5. American Black Duck
6. Northern Pintail
7. Northern Shoveler
8. Redhead
9. Ring-necked Duck
10. Scaup ssp. (Greater? Lesser?)
11. **White-winged Scoter**
12. **Black Scoter**
13. Bufflehead
14. Common Goldeneye
15. Hooded Merganser
16. Red-breasted Merganser
17. Ruddy Duck
18. **Wild Turkey**
19. Common Loon
20. Double-crested Cormorant
21. Great Blue Heron
22. House Sparrow
23. Bald Eagle
24. Sharp-shinned Hawk
25. Cooper's Hawk

26. Red-tailed Hawk
27. Red-shouldered Hawk
28. American Kestrel
29. **Merlin**
30. Peregrine Falcon
31. Ring-billed Gull
32. Herring Gull
33. Great Black-backed Gull
34. Bonaparte's Gull
35. Rock Pigeon
36. Mourning Dove
37. Great Horned Owl
38. Barred Owl
39. Screech Owl
40. Belted Kingfisher
41. **Red-headed Woodpecker**
42. Red-bellied Woodpecker
43. Downy Woodpecker
44. Hairy Woodpecker
45. Northern Flicker
46. Pileated Woodpecker
47. American Crow
48. Blue Jay
49. Black-capped Chickadee
50. Tufted Titmouse

51. White-breasted Nuthatch
52. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**
53. Brown Creeper
54. Carolina Wren
55. Winter Wren
56. Golden-crowned Kinglet
57. Eastern Bluebird
58. American Robin
59. Northern Mockingbird
60. European Starling
61. Cedar Waxwing
62. Yellow-rumped Warbler
63. Eastern Towhee (cw)
64. American Tree Sparrow
65. **Chipping Sparrow**
66. Fox Sparrow
67. Song Sparrow
68. White-throated Sparrow
69. Dark-eyed Junco
70. Northern Cardinal
71. Red-winged Blackbird
72. Common Grackle
73. Brown-headed Cowbird
74. Purple Finch
75. House Finch
76. American Goldfinch

Contact Us

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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

Volunteer Opportunities

WCAS Fourth Annual UltraWalk is coming! June 5, 2010

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 **fifth** year of the RR IBA Forest Breeding Bird Survey. Look for details on our website and in our next newsletter.

Buzzard Sunday March 21, 2010 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 Saturday thru Sunday April 24-25

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

Science Olympiad...March 20, 2010...HELP NEEDED

On Saturday, March 20, 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 March 1st!

WCAS Members Honored

WCAS members **Terry and Joanne Gorges** received awards October 28 from the Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation for their commitment to the environment and especially for planting trees in the Puritas Wetlands. Garrett Ormiston and Renee Boronka of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History were also recognized for their expertise and for their key roles in developing the wetland area near West 140th street and Puritas Ave. in Cleveland's Bellaire-Puritas neighborhood.



2010 Could Be YOUR Year!

As you can see by the information on this page, volunteer opportunities abound in WCAS. How about considering these also:

- Data Entry/Spreadsheet Development
- Presentation/Teaching Outreach
- Contact Development
- Hospitality for Meetings
- Leading Tours or Field Trips
- Event Participation
- Fund Raising



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**

