



Birding Resources @ Your Library

By Penny O'Connor

Cleveland and Cuyahoga County are home to some of the richest library resources in the U.S. The Science and Technology Department of the Cleveland Public Library offers a fantastic selection of bird field guides, natural histories and scholarly works. Visit to browse or take your pick online at www.cpl.org.

In spring and fall, birders will want to make a stop in the Library's Eastman Reading garden to see migrating birds including American Redstart, Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Wood Thrush, just to name a few that visited this year. The shrubs and trees in the garden are open and not too tall, which permits a close-up view of the birds. The address is 325 Superior Ave, NE, downtown Cleveland, Ohio 44114. Phone is 216-623-2932.

One of many titles of note in the library's collection is the American Ornithological Union's "Birds of North America, Life histories for the 21st century". A former staffer, Mildred Stewart, donated her ornithological collection of noteworthy books on rare, exotic, and familiar birds.

Other pertinent books I have read include:

- "American Goldfinch" by Alex L.A. Middleton
- "Finches and Sparrows, an Identification Guide" by Peter Clement
- "Identify Yourself, the 50 Most Common Birding Identification Challenges" by Bill Thompson III
- "Sparrows and Finches of the Great Lakes Region and Eastern North America" by Chris G. Earley
- "Stokes Field Guide to Warblers" by Donald and Lillian Stokes

The 10th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Thousands of people will be outside (or looking through their windows), counting birds on February 16-19. Will you be one of them? Find out which birds will be spending their winter with you this year. Take part in the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) to see how your local birds fit into the landscape of North America.

People of all ages and levels of experience can take part. Your bird list, whether short or long, helps us all understand more about birds across the continent, as indicators of the state of the world around us. Just report what you see to the GBBC website:

www.birdsource.org/gbbc

As you enter your results, you'll see how thousands of fellow birdwatchers can paint a picture of our birds in winter.

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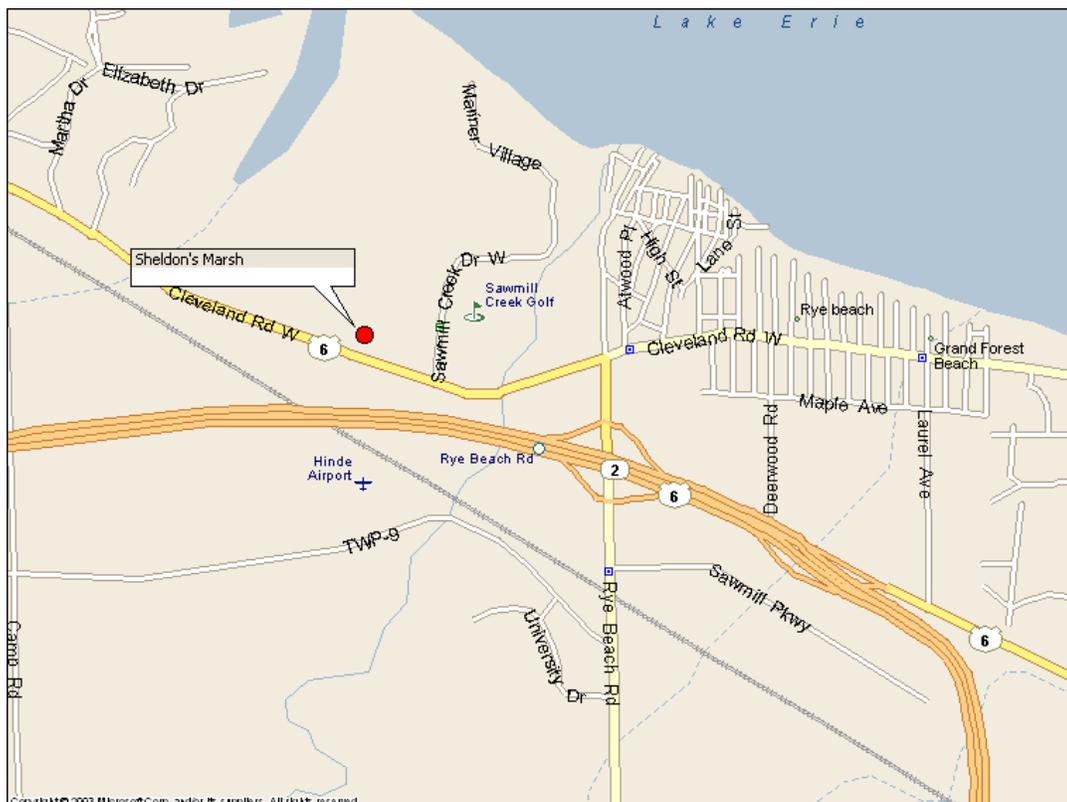
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Field Trips

Saturday, April 21, 2007...8:00 AM...Sheldon's Marsh

Sheldon's Marsh on Lake Erie will wow you with colorful spring migrants and also varieties of waterfowl only a short drive from the Cleveland area. Mary Anne Romito will lead this field trip located in Huron Twp.

Directions: Take Rt 2 west to Rye Beach Rd exit near Huron, OH. Turn right (north) on Rye Beach Rd. Then turn left (west) on Rt 6. You will past Sawmill Creek Resort. About 1000 feet past Sawmill Creek is Sheldon's Marsh. Turn right into the parking lot.



Contact Us

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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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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 6, at 7:30 PM

Why do you have so many dead birds in drawers? This is a question often asked at a museum. Dr. Andy Jones, Curator of Ornithology at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has begun research on some of Ohio's species, not only in the field, but also with the Museum's collections. Dr. Jones'

presentation, "**Ongoing Research in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Ornithology Collection**" will share with us why Museums have collections as well as the importance of collections. You'll even find out how you can become involved with museum collections.

Tuesday, March 6, at 7:30 PM

Taldi Walter, National Audubon Society's (Washington DC Policy Office) Alaska Field Coordinator, will explore some of Alaska's natural treasures set aside decades ago for the benefit of wildlife and the American public. She will highlight the challenges facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest and

National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in her presentation, "**From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska.**" In this important ecological area, Audubon seeks a balance between resource extraction and protecting internationally critical habitat

Tuesday, April 3, at 7:30 PM

Some people take birding VERY seriously. In his program, "**Birdquest!**" Larry Richardson, director of the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, was on "the hunt" for over 1000 species in one year. Spending time in North America and Kenya, Larry tallied up 1,079

species. Join us for this presentation which covers the birds, mammals and the vivid experiences and impressions of the areas to which he traveled.

Weeders in the Wild 2006, a year in review

Weeders in the Wild participants really get into nature. To promote biodiversity we take weeding to the fields and woods. EO Wilson says "On a global basis...the two greatest destroyers of biodiversity are, first habitat destruction and, second, invasion by exoti species"

It's a big job, and we are seeing progress; this was our second year cutting and spraying Phragmites at West Creek Reservation. We have removed 2 large sections and in 2007 will go into the fenced in areas by the signal towers. Phragmites can be 15 feet tall dominating large areas by crowding out native plants, creating a monoculture and it has the largest distribution of any plant in the world.



We removed invasive Buckthorn shrubs from a Cranberry patch in South Chagrin Reservation. Cranberry is so rare the Cleveland Metroparks put a fence around it to protect it from the deer. But the fence didn't keep out the non native, invasive Buckthorn. We cleared all the Buckthorn inside the fence and most of it around the fence. The Cranberry patch once again has room to spread and thrive.

We flagged Lesser Celandine south of Lagoon Picnic Pavilion and pulled Garlic Mustard at Brookside Reservation. We ventured into the muck to remove Buckthorn at Sandy Ridge Reservation and cut, dug and pulled Japanese Barberry at the Chippewa Picnic Area in Brecksville.

Last year we had 31 participants in 6 locations. If time really was money, you could say we donated \$1,000.00 in free labor. Weeders in the Wild participants included: Bill and Nancy Agardy, Stacy Allen, Maribeth Barrett, Carolina and Bob Chandler, Gregory Cznadel, Sonia DiFiore, Dave Dvorak, Ruth Evan, Bob Gardin, Chris Grames, Marilyn Gunsch, John Krock, Duane Kurapka, Dave Le-Gallee, Cathy Lehn, Terri Martincic, Cal Ochendowski, Dennis Petro, Kim Petro, Tom Pukelnick, John Rob, Tom Romito, Frank Shultz, Mary Ellen Stasek, Adrian Staeven, Heather Triplet, Wendy Weirich, Barb and Nydia.



* See back page for schedule of spring events.

Volunteers Needed for Science Olympiad, Saturday, Feb 17, 2007

By Nancy Howell

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society will be setting up the "test" on Bird Identification for the elementary and middle school youngsters participating in Science Olympiad. This year's competition is on February 17, at Cleveland State University. WCAS has participated in the past and was asked to return since the students and teachers liked our portion of the competition.

Science Olympiad is a science-based, fun competition for students in grades 4 through 6. Up to 24 schools from urban, suburban and parochial schools participate. Students may select areas in which to participate such as astronomy, physics, weather or some of the biological sciences.

The Bird Identification portion can be any species of bird, extinct or extant, that can be found in Ohio. Bird ID may take the form of looking at the birds themselves or bird song, silhouettes, habitats, nests and eggs, etc. There is a lot the students need to learn.

Assistance will be needed that day, from 7:30 AM to around 1 PM, to set up our activity, welcome the students into the room, grade their "tests" and pack up at the end of the event.



It is fun to assist the students and get them to think about the birds that are around them. It is also a time to thank the teachers and parents who dedicate their time to help make this happen for the students. If you are interested in helping with this event, please let me know so I can keep you updated on information. I may be reached at:
nhowell@cmnh.org or (440) 891-1710

Welcome New Members

John and Janice Andes
Robert Beck
Karen and Lee Czerniawski
Susan Furth
Terry and JoAnne Gorges
Elizabeth Hagen
Russ and Margaret Kosch
Vic and Terry Macha
Stan Searles
Stanley Stine
Marie Sudduth
Kathy Szeremet



Weeders in the Wild schedule of Spring Events

Join us out in the field as we get into nature and restore biodiversity, one plant at a time

March 24, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 am—1:00 pm,

Lagoon Picnic Area Pavilion, Rocky River Reservation

The Lagoon Pavilion is about 1/2 mile south of Rocky River Nature Center. This 2 mile hike will take us to Willowbend and back again. We will pull garlic mustard, pick-up trash and flag Lesser Celandine.

April 7, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 am—2:00 pm, Wendtwood, Lorain County

RSVP by calling: 440-759-8220, a map will be forwarded to participants.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History Natural Areas staff will join us on this privately owned conservation easement property. Hopefully, we'll see Trumpeter Swans. Bring a lunch and binoculars.

April 21, 2007, Saturday, 1:00 pm—3:00 pm,

Bacon Woods, Vermilion River, Lorain Metroparks

We will pull Garlic Mustard and map Lesser Celandine. Arrive early and join us at noon for an optional brown bag lunch.

Maps for Lagoon and Bacon Woods are available on our website www.wcasohio.org or by calling: 440-759-8220.

To find out about current environmental issues, see our "Take Action" webpage. Find them at www.wcasohio.org



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