

## Ultrawalk to Kick Off Fourth Year of IBA Survey

By Tom Romito



Year Four of the five-year survey of the Rocky River Important Bird Area is about to get underway! The volunteers of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) are planning, preparing, training, and testing for the survey, which begins in the last week of May.

Kicking off this year's survey is the third annual Ultrawalk on Saturday, May 23. For the third year in a row, Stan Searles, Curator of Ornithology and Aquatics at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, and creator of the Ultrawalk, will lead the 31-mile trek, starting at 6:00 a.m. at Buzzard's Roost in Hinckley Reservation. I, Tom Romito, President of WCAS, will walk with him. Several other Audubon supporters have indicated their intent to walk the distance as well.

By about 3:00 p.m. on May 23, the Ultra-walkers will pass the Cleveland Metropark Operations Building (Park Ops) in Fairview. There, we expect a large group of supporters to join the walkers and accompany us on the last five miles of the trek to the Emerald Necklace Marina.

The purpose of the Ultrawalk is twofold. First, we want to raise public awareness of the Rocky River Important Bird Area, which overlays the Rocky River Main and East Branches. We will do this by passing through several townships, including, Hinckley, North



Liz Clingman, Mary Anne Romito, and Kathleen Tiburzi (rear) hike up the All-Purpose Trail during the 2008 Ultrawalk



Ultrawalkers Stan Searles (left) and Tom Romito lead the parade of walkers into the Emerald Necklace Marina In 2008

Royalton and Berea, then hit the All-Purpose Trail adjacent to Valley Parkway enroute to the marina in Lakewood.

Second, we want to raise funds to support the IBA project. We are doing this by seeking pledges for the miles we walk from our friends, relatives, and co-workers. I am also conducting speaking engagements this spring to local community service organizations, such as Kiwanis clubs. There, I am soliciting both pledges and donations. We will use the funds we raise to help pay the salary of our IBA Coordinator, Diane Sigler.

Look for us on May 23. Better yet, join us! If you want to walk with us, either 31 miles or five miles, contact one of our board members, whose names and numbers are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

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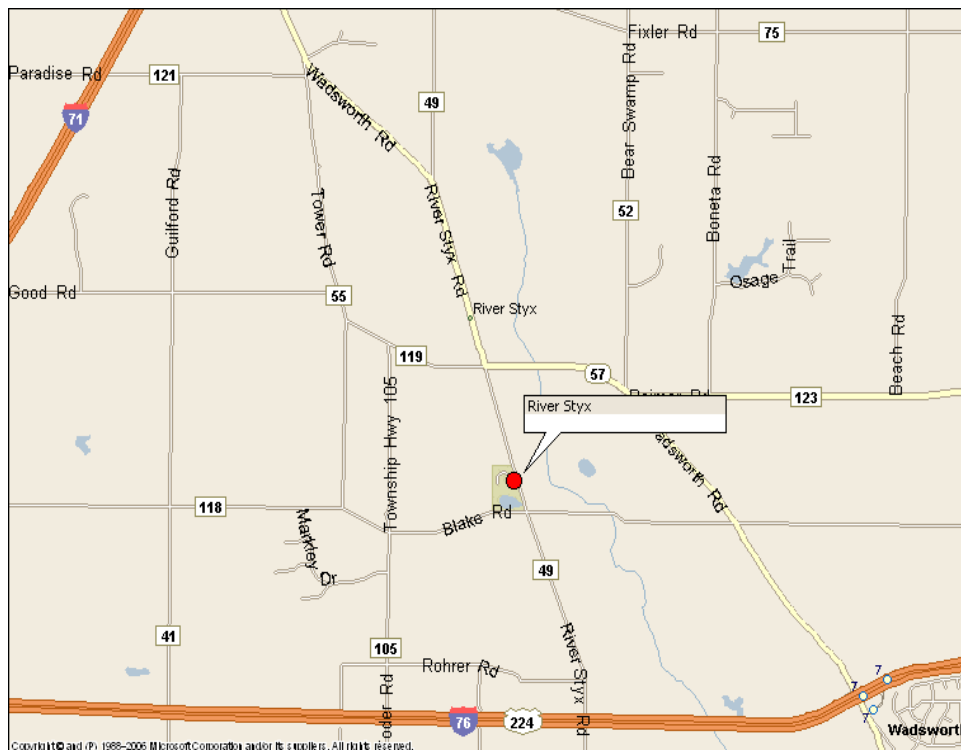
## Field Trips

### Sunday, May 31, 2009...8:00 AM...River Styx Park, Medina

Join us as we travel to **River Styx Medina County Park** to find warblers and more. Dan Bertsch will be our leader.

Directions from Cleveland:

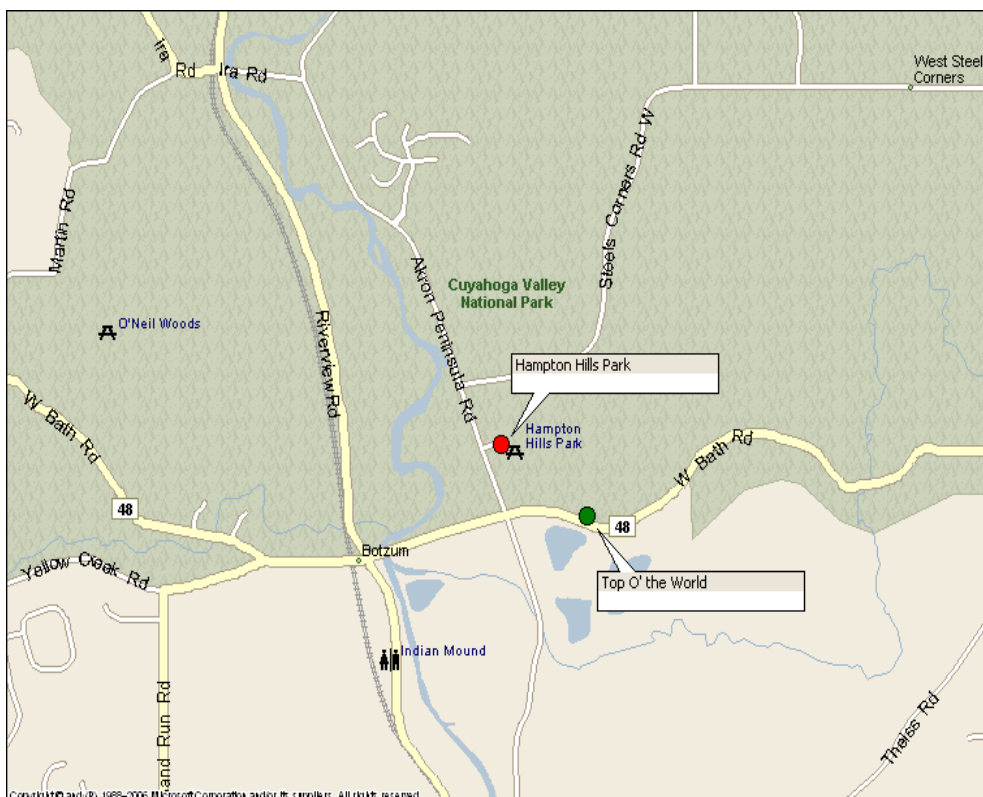
Take I-71 south to exit 218, Route 18. Turn right, or west, toward Medina. You will see a large Goodwill sign on the left. Turn left at River Styx Road and remain on River Styx Road. River Styx Park is a short distance further, on the right, in a dip in the road. If you come to Blake Road, you have gone too far.



### Sunday, June 14, 2009...7:30 AM...Hampton Hills Park, CVNP

Mary Anne Romito will lead this walk at **Hampton Hills Park** in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We will be looking for Yellow-breasted Chat and Alder Flycatcher.

Directions: From the North, take I-77 south to Ghent Rd. Turn right onto Ghent Rd. (the exit makes a big loop) Take Ghent to Smith Rd. Turn left on Smith Rd. Take Smith Rd to Riverview Rd. Turn left on Riverview Rd. Then turn right on Bath Rd. Then turn left on Akron Peninsula Rd. Hampton Hills Park will be on the right.



# Field Trips

## Saturday, July 18...9:00 AM...Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

For our field trip we will meet at the brand new Ottawa Visitor Center. We will drive 7 miles through areas of the refuge which are usually closed. At various spots we will stop to see shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl and a variety of other birds in a habitat reflective of the historic Great Black Swamp. ONWR is about 90 miles from Cleveland. If you would like to share a ride, call Penny O'Connor (216) 676-4859  
E-mail: [pjo@earthlink.net](mailto:pjo@earthlink.net)

### Directions:

From Cleveland. Take Rt. 2 west past Sandusky and Port Clinton. Ottawa NWR is about 40-45 miles west of Sandusky. The entrance to Ottawa NWR is 2 miles west of Magee Marsh. Both refuges are on the North side of Rt. 2. Alternative route: Take the Ohio Turnpike I-80 west to Rt 250 north. Take Rt 250 north to Rt. 2. Take Rt. 2 west to Ottawa NWR.



## 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](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

# Programs

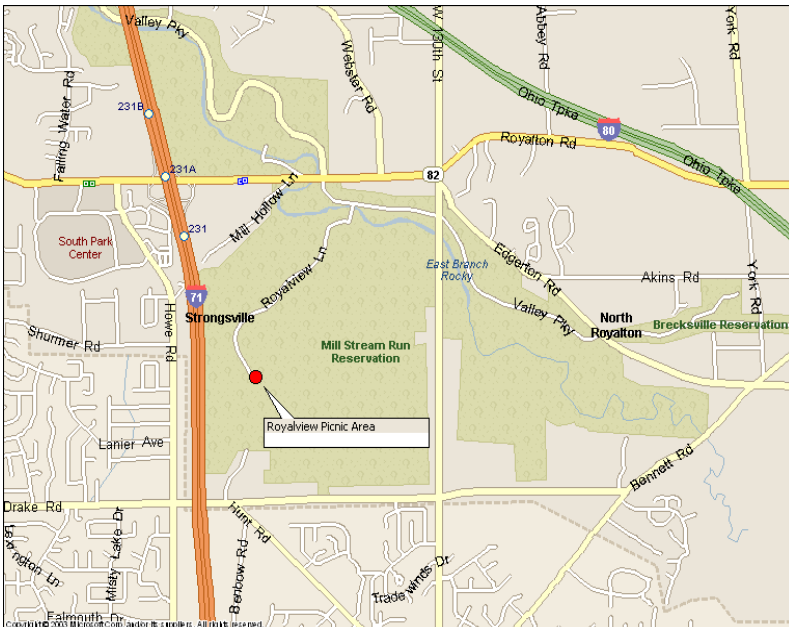
All WCAS programs are free and open to the public. Our monthly programs are held the first Tuesday of each month, September through May, at Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, Ohio. For a map and directions see [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org).

## Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:30 PM



Imagine yourself as a migrating songbird passing through Ohio. As a migrant you need to stop and refuel, but something has changed ... what? Dr. Sarah Mabey from Hiram College has been studying the behavior and ecology of songbird migrants as they relate to human-induced changes in the landscape. In her presentation, ***"An Unpredictable Passage: The Ecology and Conservation of Migrating Songbirds"***, Dr. Mabey will discuss the challenges facing conservation of migrants during their passage.

## Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 6:00 PM Royalview Picnic Area



Royalview Picnic Area is in the Millstream Run Reservation Metropark in Strongsville.

This is our annual **WCAS picnic and plant exchange** to celebrate the beginning of summer and the close of our program year. Our next program will not be until September, which will also be the beginning of our new fiscal year when membership renewals are due. A charcoal fire will be ready, bring your own food to cook.

Remember to bring all your orphan outdoor or indoor plants, bulbs, cuttings, etc. to share. We will also have a bird walk after the picnic.

To get to Royalview Picnic: From I-71, take Rt 82 east to Valley Pkwy. Turn right (or South) on Valley Pkwy. Then turn right on Royalview Lane. Drive all the way to the end of Royalview Lane. We will meet in the Picnic Pavilion.



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# Volunteer Opportunities

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## Weeders in the Wild

Join Terri Martincic, leader of WCAS "**Weeders in the Wild**", and other invasive plant warriors as they return our green spaces to a more native Ohio state. Please join them in the following events.

Other weeding opportunity:

**May 2, 2009, Saturday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Sponsored by Cleveland Museum of Natural History

### Medina Sanctuary

Along the west branch of the Rocky River,  
Registration required, Call 216-231-4600 x3214

<http://www.cmnh.org/product/EDAFT093/>

[GarlicMustardPullMedina.aspx](http://www.cmnh.org/product/EDAFT093/GarlicMustardPullMedina.aspx)

**August 8, 2009, Saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

### Weeders in the Wild

**South Chagrin Arboretum**, Cleveland Metroparks

The fourth Annual Cranberry liberation pull. Join us as we remove the invasive Buckthorn that is trying to crowd out the native Cranberry.

Take 480 east to 422 (near 271). Quickly exit at Miles Road. Turn right (east) onto Miles. Go past Look About Lodge, turn right (south) on Sulphur Springs Drive. Turn right on Hawthorn and a quick left onto Arbor Lane. The Arboretum parking lot is on the left.

Other weeding opportunity:

**May 16, 2009, Saturday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

### Elmwood Park

**GARLIC MUSTARD PULL** In the city of Rocky River. Grab your garden gloves and join the volunteer community effort to round up the invasive Garlic Mustard weed. This "alien" species is spreading through our natural areas and competing for space and nutrients with the native spring wildflowers. Hand pulling before the seeds are set is necessary to control the spread of Garlic Mustard and must be continued each year until the seed bank is depleted. Meet at the trail head by the baseball field to receive instructions and coordinate efforts.



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## School Days Event at Edgewater Park

Assistance is needed for the upcoming SCHOOL DAYS program on **Wednesday, May 20** held at Edgewater Park. SCHOOL DAYS provides an opportunity to showcase our organization and have a fun interactive display with schools and students in grades 3 through 5. Traditionally WCAS has participated in the Fun Fair portion of the event which runs from **10 AM to 2 PM**.

During the Fun Fair, teachers with their students stop by activity stations and "test their skills and knowledge" on different topics. Since Audubon is known for birds, our display will be "*What's That Bird?*" A dozen large photos of local bird species are being provided by Dave Lewis. Friendly WCAS members are needed to encourage the students

to look and use their skills in identifying the birds.

Those helping will need to pick up the display and items used at the Fun Fair, arrive at the SCHOOL DAYS event by 9 AM to set up, put up the WCAS banner and display and be ready for the Students by 10 AM. After the event is over, clean up and return of items is needed. This is an outdoor event near the beach pavilion in the lower area of Edgewater Park, and runs rain or shine.

Contact **Nancy Howell** at:  
**216-231-4600 ext. 3225** or  
[nhowell@cmnh.org](mailto:nhowell@cmnh.org) if you can help.  
Please let Nancy know SOON!

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## Thank You to Volunteers

A big thank you goes out to **Dave LeGallee** and **Jan Holkenborg** for assisting with the Science Olympiad at Cleveland State University on Saturday, February 21, 2009. WCAS volunteers like them are helping to educate our future conservationist-birders.

# International Migratory Bird Day May 9, 2009



Environment for the Americas, home of **International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)**, is a non-profit organization working to increase awareness of birds and their conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere. Although IMBD is always held on the second Saturday in May, which will be May 9 in 2009, it is hoped that the spirit of the day will last all year. Environment for the Americas provides the framework and education materials for bird festivals and events, a host directory of bird education resources, offers bird workshops, and motivates people of all ages to get outdoors and learn about birds. Visit their web site at [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org) for more information.

Check out some of the following events in our area:

Location:

## Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

([www.friendsofmageemarsh.org](http://www.friendsofmageemarsh.org)) in Oak Harbor,

## Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

([www.onwra.com](http://www.onwra.com)) or

## Maumee Bay State Park's Nature Center

([www.maumeebaystatepark.org](http://www.maumeebaystatepark.org)).

Activities include bird banding demonstrations, wagon rides, exhibits, kids activities, auto tours, etc. Begins 9:00 AM

## Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

**May 9, 2009 10:00 to 3:30 pm**

Come join the migration sensation and celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). IMBD focuses attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird - its journey between its summer and winter homes. Become an honorary bird as you migrate to various stations around the zoo. You may even be tagged and measured by our research team to check your health and migratory pattern!

## Tidbits

A small, daring free-tailed bat made one giant leap for bat kind last month while clinging to the external fuel tank of the space shuttle Discovery -- and holding on for dear life even after liftoff. It's highly unlikely that the bat made it into space -- since the shuttle accelerates from zero to 100 miles per hour in 10 seconds after takeoff -- but in the photo of Discovery clearing the launch tower, the tiny creature is definitely visible on the side of the tank. Though the flight was probably fatal, the bat has made history and will live on in legend.



Unfortunately, even as we mourn the loss of the first "space bat," bats across the Northeast are experiencing an even scarier and not-at-all-entertaining demise thanks to the mysterious, deadly, and rapidly spreading bat disease known as white-nose syndrome. The Center is working to protect bats from all threats in the face of the devastating sickness, which just last month was confirmed to have spread to West Virginia.

## Contact Us

### WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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

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Liz Clingman, 440-234-7784

Penny O' Connor

Kathleen Tiburzi



## Migratory Birds and Communications

Millions of birds are killed each year when they collide with communications towers. Please urge the Federal Communications Commission to stop this needless killing of migratory songbirds. With the annual spring migration underway, take a moment right now to **send a letter to the FCC and ask for immediate action to prevent migratory bird deaths at towers.** You may cut out and send the letter printed here on the right, or you may compose one of your own and use the information in this sample. Please add your name and address.

Acting Commissioner Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Room: 8-B115  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Acting Commissioner Copps:

As one of the millions of Americans who cherish our nation's native wild birds, I urge the FCC to take action to prevent the needless killing of millions of migratory birds at communications towers. These bird deaths can be prevented without affecting the development and operation of telecommunication services and without compromising on aviation safety.

Scientists have shown that -- especially during bad weather conditions -- migrating birds become disoriented and trapped by the halo of light surrounding towers using steady-burning illumination, circling endlessly until they either collide with the structure, collide with each other, or fall dead from exhaustion.

Given the overwhelming scientific evidence that communications towers kill birds, and the existence of science-based guidelines from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on siting and operation of these towers, it is appalling that the FCC is failing to conduct any meaningful environmental review of tower applications, and continues in its refusal to adopt any meaningful regulatory changes or mitigation measures to avoid or minimize the killing of America's birds.

The FCC should act now to take meaningful actions to significantly reduce the millions of bird deaths caused by communications towers. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

## Ohio Birds' Movements Reveal Global Warming Threat, Says New Report *Species Wintering Farther North Show Need for Policy Change*

The northward and inland movement of North American Birds, confirmed by thousands of citizen-observations, provides new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems, according to new analyses by Audubon scientists. The findings signal the need for dramatic policy changes to combat pervasive ecological disruption.

The report is a call to arms for birders everywhere. As the atmosphere for change permeates

the political landscape, the information from this report provides excellent background to stress to policy makers the need for swift and sure action on climate change legislation. To that end the National Audubon Society has launched a website providing birders and other interested persons the opportunity to learn more about the report and to send a message to Washington regarding the need for this action. Visit the website at:

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

Learn more, take the test and send a message!



# 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**

