



## After Five Years in the IBA, What's Next?

by Tom Romito, WCAS President

Sometimes I feel like WCAS is running on adrenaline to get through the five years of the Rocky River Important Bird Area Breeding Bird Survey. A group of wonderful people that I call our Corps of Volunteers has been carrying the load for four years. That includes training, testing, walking, speaking, fund-raising, point-counting, data inputting, and more. This year, I've been asking, cajoling, begging, and pleading for them to do it all one more time!

Some of you may be asking, "What's magic about five years? The answer is that five years of data from our point counts will show definite trends in bird populations in the Rocky River valley. It takes at least five years to lend scientific credibility to any data stream. That's why we've been pushing so hard for four years. Year Five will culminate in a data set that Cleveland Metroparks can use for its conservation purposes.

Has it been worth it? Absolutely! The IBA survey has given WCAS a reputation as the go-to organization for bird surveys, and over the past two years, Metroparks has asked us to survey birds in a 62-acre parcel of land in North Royalton that protects nearly a half mile of the Rocky River's East Branch. Metroparks used our data in the application for grant money to acquire this parcel, and now they are finalizing the purchase of this property.

Does the end of the five-year survey mean that interest in the IBA will go away? In anticipation of the completion of our five-year study, WCAS has been conducting meetings with agencies in and around the Rocky River valley. These agencies, or stakeholders, are working with us to construct a strategy for what conservation initiatives should take place in the IBA once the study is done.

For the third year in a row, Stan Searles and company are going to kick off the IBA survey with a 31-mile Ultrawalk on June 5 from Buzzard Roost in Hinckley Reservation to the Emerald Necklace Marina in Rocky River Reservation. The walk is a fund-raiser for the IBA. If anyone wants to walk or knows someone who is and wants to support that person with a pledge, please contact any member of the board. Their names and phone numbers are inside this newsletter.

You don't have to walk all 31 miles either. By about 3:00 p.m. on June 5, 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. Hope to see you there!



Inside this issue:	
Field trips	page 2 & 3
Programs	Page 4
Weeders in the Wild	Page 5
School Days at Edgewater	Page 5
Volunteer Thank You	Page 5
Intrnatl. Migratory Bird Day	Page 6
2010 State of Birds Report	Page 6
Audubon Leaders	Page 7

## Field Trips

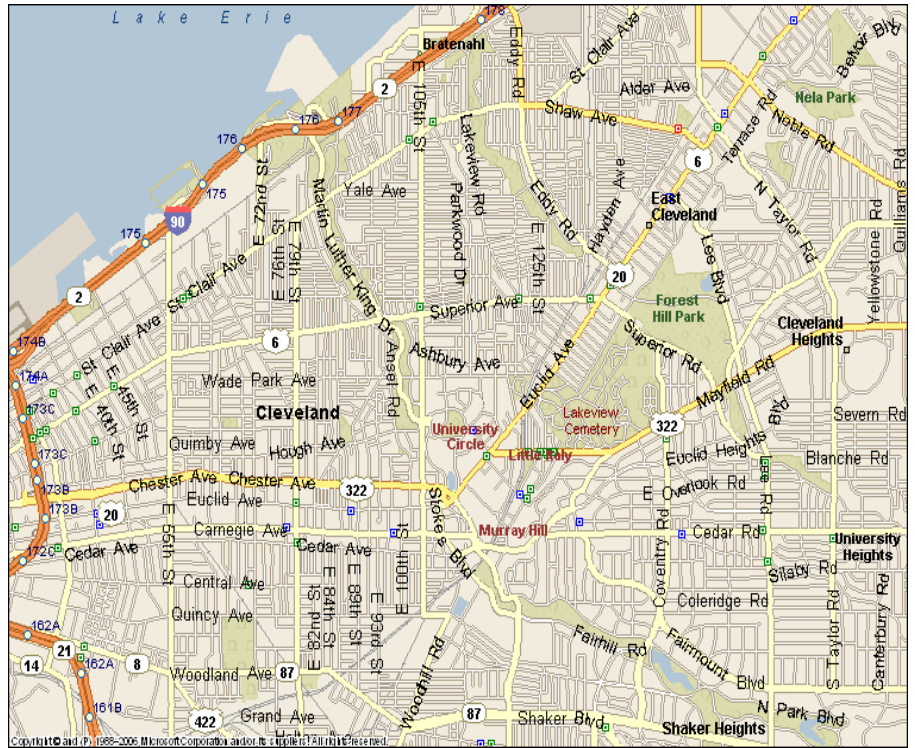
### Sunday, May 23, 2010...8:00 AM...Lake View Cemetery

Our leaders for this trip to a great birding site in Cleveland will be Dick and Jean Hoffman, who have compiled a book on the birds of **Lake View Cemetery**. We will be looking for spring migrants and summer residents. **Please meet and park by the Cemetery Office** located at the Euclid Ave. entrance, (stone building with modern front). The address is 12316 Euclid Ave.

#### 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.



### Sunday, June 13...8 AM...Bradley Woods Reservation

Bradley Woods Reservation is a swamp forest sitting on a massive formation of Berea Sandstone. We hope to hike some less-visited areas to see summer resident red-headed woodpeckers and warblers. Our leader, Scott Wright, is a dedicated volunteer who is helping preserve native plants and birds here. We will meet at the **Codrington Shelter on White Oak Lane**.

#### Directions:

From east (North Olmsted) go west on Lorain Rd. to Barton Rd.; turn right (north) on Barton Rd.; go to Bradley Rd., turn right (north) on Bradley. Entrance is on the right; follow White Oak Lane.

Via I-90, exit at Crocker-Bassett Rd, turn south on Crocker Rd. to Center Ridge Rd., turn right (west) on Center Ridge to Bradley Rd.; turn left (south) at first traffic light onto Bradley. Entrance is on the left; follow White Oak Lane.

Via I-480 from east, exit at Stearns Rd., turn right (north) on Stearns to Lorain Rd.; turn left (west) on Lorain Rd.; go to Barton Rd and turn right (north) onto Barton; go to Bradley Rd. and turn right (north) onto Bradley. Entrance is on the right.



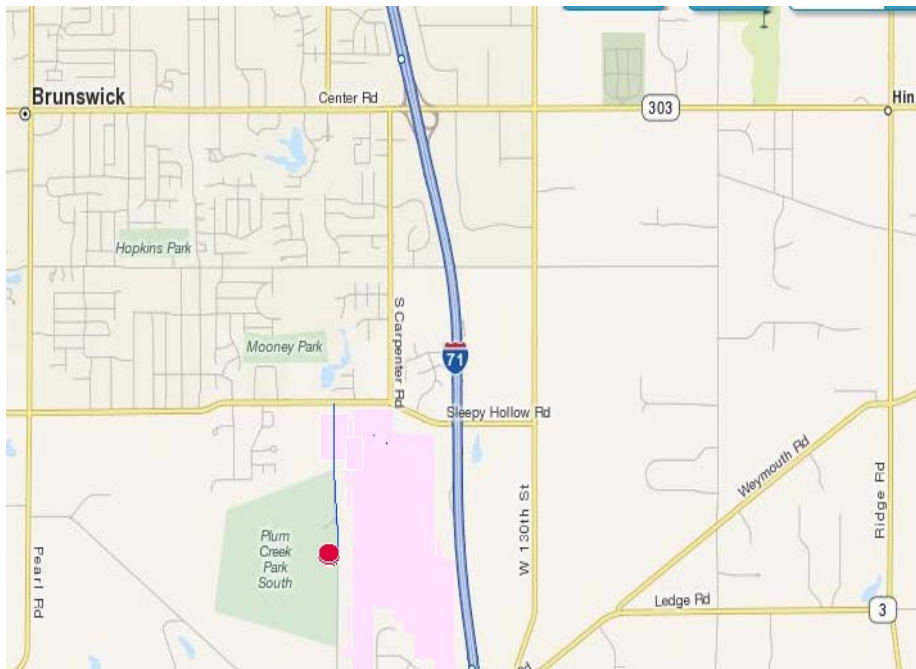
## Field Trips

### Sunday, July 11...8 AM...Plum Creek Park, Medina County

Come join us as we bird to help complete a block of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II at Plum Creek Park, which is in the Rocky River West Branch watershed. Terri Martincic will be our leader as we look for nesting warblers and other summer residents in both mature forest and meadow habitats. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards.

#### Directions:

Plum Creek Park is at 2500 Plum Creek Parkway, Brunswick Hills Twp. From Cleveland area go south on I-71 to Rt. 303. Go right (west) on 303 for short distance, then turn left (south) on S. Carpenter Rd. Turn right (west) on Sleepy Hollow Rd. Then turn left (south) on Plum Creek Pkwy. We'll meet at the second parking lot.



### 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](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

## Contact Us

**WESTERN CUYAHOGA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
4310 Bush Ave.  
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

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

#### Treasurer

Nancy Howell, 440-891-1710

#### Newsletter Editor

Kit Birch, 440-238-0153

#### Webmaster

Mary Anne Romito, 216-741-2352

#### IBA Coordinator

Diane Sigler, 440-237-0816

#### Directors at Large

Liz Clingman, 440-234-7784

Penny O' Connor, 216-676-4859

Stan Searles

Gayle Albers

---

## 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 4, 2010 at 7:30 PM

Extinct. From billions to none alive today is the story of the Passenger Pigeon. Harvey Webster, wildlife resources curator at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will present the program *"Of Mast and Men: The Life, Times and Demise of the Passenger Pigeon."* Would the Passenger Pigeon still be with us today if their habitat were protected? What did the birds require and are those resources available today? How did that many birds affect an ecosystem? Many questions arise about the Passenger Pigeon and we do not know all of the facts. Harvey will enlighten us on how this species affected humans and the land they inhabited.



---

### Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 6:00 PM Bonnie Park Picnic Shelter

#### Summer Picnic and Plant Exchange

Join us for our Summer Picnic at Bonnie Park Picnic Shelter in Strongsville, about ¼ mile east of Pearl Rd. (Rt. 42) on Valley Parkway in the Metroparks. Bring your own dinner. WCAS will provide the charcoal fire for cooking. We will follow the dinner with a bird walk on a lovely June evening.

We will also have our **annual plant exchange** so please bring any orphan plants, seeds, bulbs, cuttings (outdoor or indoor plants are welcome) to share.



---

### Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF)

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society recognized five students for their excellent projects presented at the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF) held March 15-18, 2010 at Cleveland State University. These awards focused on projects relating to birds, conservation, or watersheds. WCAS Science fair judges were Gayle Albers, Nancy Howell, Dave LeGallee and Penny O'Connor. Winners of our special awards and honorable mentions are:

Julia Scharfstein - Agnon Elementary School - "How does the color of roof material affect temperature"  
James Wojtal - Lake Ridge Academy Elementary School - "Birds' reaction to predator calls"



Swetha Vinjimoor – Strongsville High School - "Aggressive plants: The study of the parts of an allelopathic plant"  
Aniah McClellan - Beachwood Middle School - "Earthworm invasion"  
Nicola Douglas - Solon Middle School - "Effect of precipitation on water quality"

NEOSEF is an outreach activity for WCAS. Over 600 students in grades 7-12 took part. They came from schools in 7 counties. Our awards give encouragement to the next generation of science- and conservation-minded citizens.

---

# Volunteer Opportunities

---

## Weeders in the Wild

**May 8, 2010, Saturday, 10:00 am - Noon**  
**Garlic Mustard Pull at Elmwood Park, Rocky River**  
Save the date for our 10th annual community pull! Grab your garden gloves and boots and join the volunteer 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 behind the baseball fields to receive instructions and coordinate efforts. Many hands make light work: Recruit your friends, family and neighbors.  
\*Parking may be tight. Be earth-friendly and walk or ride your bike! See you there!  
Chris Pfeil  
440-356-2324

**August 7, 2010, Saturday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
**[South Chagrin Arboretum](#), Cleveland Metroparks**  
The sixth Annual Cranberry liberation pull. Join us as we remove the invasive Buckthorn that is trying to crowd out the native Cranberry.  
Take I-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 opportunities:

**May 1, Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Medina Sanctuary**  
Along the west branch of the Rocky River with Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Free but registration required: Call 216-231-4600 x3214  
<http://www.cmnh.org/product/EDAFT093/GarlicMustardPullMedina>

---

## School Days Event at Edgewater Park

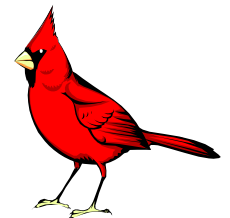
Assistance is needed for the upcoming SCHOOL DAYS program on **Wednesday, May 26** held at Edgewater Park. SCHOOL DAYS provides an opportunity to showcase our organization and have a fun interactive display with schools and students in grades 3 through 5. Traditionally WCAS has participated in the Fun 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.



---

## Thank You to Volunteers

Thanks go out to Dave LeGallee and Nancy Howell for setting up and staffing the *Bird Identification* portion of the **Science Olympiad** for elementary and middle school students on Saturday, March 20 at Cleveland State University.

It is so nice to have CSU working with the organizers of the Science Olympiad AND to see all of the enthusiastic youngsters, their parents and coaches come and spend the morning and early afternoon dashing between many science topics. Thanks go out to the parents and coaches from the schools who participated and congratulations to all.

Students who took part in the *Bird Identification* were from the following schools:

Gesu Catholic School – Cleveland Hts./University Hts.  
Parkside Intermediate School - Westlake  
Cuyahoga Hts. - Cuyahoga Hts.  
Parma City Schools (2 teams!!) - Parma  
St. Paschal Baylon – Mayfield  
Hawken School – Lower - Lyndhurst  
St. Richard School – North Olmsted  
Birchwood School – Cleveland  
Seton Catholic School - Hudson  
St. Mary of the Assumption School - Mentor  
St. Raphael School – Bay Village  
Wickliffe Middle School - Wickliffe  
Smith School – Berea  
Olmsted Falls Intermediate School – Olmsted Falls  
Woodbury School – Shaker Hts.  
South Suburban Montessori School – Brecksville-Broadview Hts.  
Mayfield City Schools - Mayfield  
Orchard Middle School - Solon

---

## National News

---

### International Migratory Bird Day May 8, 2010

**International Migratory Bird Day** (IMBD), the signature program of Environment For The Americas (EFTA), is the only international education program that highlights and celebrates the migration of nearly 350 species of migratory birds between nesting habitats in North America and non-breeding grounds in Latin America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Each year IMBD explores a different aspect of migratory birds and their conservation. This year the theme celebrates the partnerships that make bird conservation programs successful. It officially takes place the second Saturday in May each year, but in reality can be celebrated all month. **Local Events:**

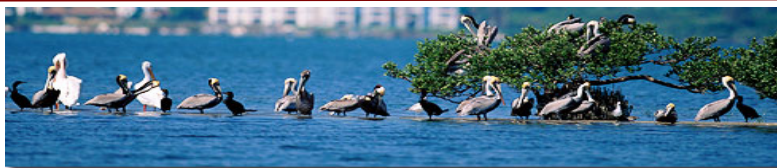
**May 8, 2010**

**Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Open House** ([www.onwra.com](http://www.onwra.com))

**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

**International Migratory Bird Day at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo... May 8, 2010...10 am—3 pm** International Migratory Bird Day focuses attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird - the journey between its summer and winter homes. As numerous species of birds return to Northeast Ohio in spring, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will celebrate their arrival with a day of feathered fun. Go beak-to-cheek with some of the Zoo's birds during Get-Close programs, learning about the migration journey at the Migration Station or trying to eat like a bird with a game of Be the Beak.



---

### Interior Secretary Salazar Releases New “2010 State of the Birds” Report

*The State of the Birds: 2010 Report on Climate Change*, follows a comprehensive report released a year ago showing that nearly a third of the nation's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant decline.

“For well over a century, migratory birds have faced stresses such as commercial hunting, loss of forests, the use of DDT and other pesticides, a loss of wetlands and other key habitat, the introduction of invasive species, and other impacts of human development,” Salazar said. “Now they are facing a new threat--climate change--that could dramatically alter their habitat and food supply and push many species towards extinction.”

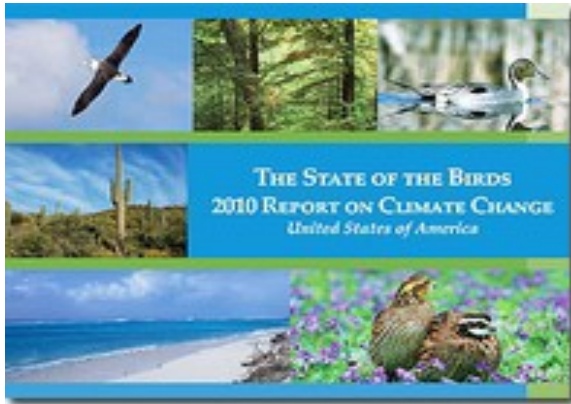
The report, a collaboration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and experts from the nation's leading conservation organizations, shows that climate changes will have an increasingly disruptive effect on bird species in all habitats, with oceanic and Hawaiian birds in greatest peril.

In releasing the report, Salazar cited the unprecedented efforts by the Obama Administration and the Department of the Interior to address climate change.

Last week in Anchorage, Alaska, for example, the Interior Department opened the first of eight new regional Climate Science Centers that will engage scientists from all of Interior's Bureaus and partners to research climate change impacts, work with land, natural, and cultural resource managers to design adaptation strategies, and engage the public through education initiatives.

The Climate Science Centers will help support a network of new “Landscape Conservation Cooperatives” that will engage federal agencies, tribal, state, and local governmental and non-governmental partners, and the public in crafting practical, landscape-level strategies for managing climate change impacts on land, natural, and cultural resources within the eight regions.

Excerpts taken from [www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org)



## AUDUBON LEADERS COMMENT ON U.S. STATE OF THE BIRDS REPORT

New York, NY, March 11, 2010

Statement from Audubon President, Dr. Frank Gill

**“groundbreaking report must be a rallying cry for people who care about birds and nature”**

“Fortunately, people can still make a difference for these birds and for the future. We can restore and protect the critical habitats that will help vulnerable species to weather challenges of a changing climate. We can demand the local and legislative changes that can shrink our contribution of climate-altering emissions. The birds are telling us we must act now.

“This groundbreaking report must be a rallying cry for the millions of people who care about birds and nature. It took countless citizen and professional scientists to gather the data that made the report possible and it will take even more committed people to address the peril it reveals. Together we can alter the future, just as Audubon has done for more than a century. We're grateful to be among so many concerned organizations united in compiling this vital report and in charting a healthier course for birds and for people too.

“We commend Secretary Salazar and the Department of the Interior for leading the way in identifying the climate threat to birds, wildlife and our environment, and for leadership in helping wildlife adapt to a changing climate.”

### Remarks of Glenn Olson Donal O'Brien Chair for Bird Conservation National Audubon Society :

“There is tremendous power in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and so many dedicated conservation groups coming together to gather and translate complex scientific data into an understanding of what is happening to the birds and to the world we share.

“The dangers to these birds reflect risks to everything we value: our health, our finances, our quality of life and the stability of our natural world. But if we can help the birds weather a changing climate, we can help ourselves.

More than a century of Audubon experience confirms that we can do it.

“Across America, nearly **500 Audubon Chapters** are working close to home to protect and restore the habitats essential to helping birds and other wildlife to endure the unprecedented challenges that come with a changing climate. You can meet them, you can talk to them and you can see the difference they're making.

“We've also got people of every background, political persuasion and walk of life calling for tough action to shrink the emissions that make this crisis worse every day. And that's just Audubon—there are millions more bird lovers and other groups like the Nature Conservancy working with us to engage them.

Olson was recently appointed by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to a three-year ex-officio term on the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Advisory Group. <http://web1.audubon.org/news/pressRelease.php>

Dr. Greg Butcher, Audubon's Director of Bird Conservation, served on the Science Team for the 2010 Report.

The **State of the Birds Report** will be posted online at [www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org)

**Action people can take to help birds and stem Climate Change:**  
[Audubon Action Center](http://AudubonActionCenter) [www.audubon.org/globalWarming/](http://www.audubon.org/globalWarming/)



# 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**

