



Wind Energy in Lake Erie: Points to Ponder

By Kit Birch



The development of clean, renewable sources of energy such as wind power is a desirable endeavor we all would like to support. But what about its effect on native species of birds and bats? Some conservationists are wondering if the rapidly expanding wind energy development in the U.S. has gotten too far ahead of the science and regulatory framework needed to protect our avian



wildlife. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) together have studied the possible effects on migratory birds and bats if wind turbines are placed off shore in Lake Erie. Here are a few "points to ponder":

__There has been no research on the potential cumulative impact of wind turbines on birds in this region. Since the southern shore and western basin of Lake Erie, leading to Point Pelee in Ontario, is a major migratory bottleneck for neotropical breeding birds, such research is imperative.

__Independent assessment of wind turbines in Lake Erie is needed to ensure no bias on the part of developers.

__Siting of the wind turbines to have as little negative impact as possible on birds will require a great deal of study and planning. Even the timing of disruptive construction is crucial, considering the fact that both spring and fall migration seasons increase the number of birds over Lake Erie.

—Post-construction monitoring of bird and bat kills would need to be done to verify the results of pre-construction risk assessment studies.

__What should the allowable number of Federally protected bird deaths due to wind turbines be?

Related News:

The [President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request](#) for the Department of Energy's Wind Energy Program includes [\\$12.4 million](#) to "improve the understanding of risks to sensitive wildlife species and develop technologies that can mitigate those risks." This is an important acknowledgement of the nexus between wildlife issues and wind energy development. Congress should support it and the Department of Energy should invest in this work regardless of what comes back from Congress.

Reported by National Resource Defense Council's Katie Umekubo

Posted March 9, 2015

Editor's note -

Regarding post-construction monitoring of bird and bat kills, there is the question of how to effectively capture the information. Because the carcasses will fall into the water, there is no tried and true procedure to recover and identify them.

There is also the issue of changing technology. Changes in the turbines could have a major impact on bird and bat kills, so environmentalists need to pay close attention to where the technology is headed.

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FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. Evening Bird Walk at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Trip Leader: Erik Bruder

Target Species: Barred Owl, Warblers, Late-spring migrants

The terrain at Huntington Reservation around Lake Erie Nature and Science Center offers eye-level views of warblers in the treetops. Barred Owls regularly frequent the ravine by LENS. We will meet at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center and walk the trails to Lake Erie.

For an eBird list of birds seen here in May, go to: <http://bit.ly/1AnLLqm>

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center is located at 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140. A map and directions are at: http://www.wcasohio.org/Lake_Erie_Nature_and_Science_Center.htm



Barred Owl (left)
and
Yellow Warbler (right)
Courtesy
Google Free Images



Sunday, June 14, at 8:00 a.m. Bath Nature Preserve

Trip Leader: Sandy Brown

Target Species: Bobolink, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Meadowlark

Bath Nature Preserve is home to many summer resident bird species. Paved trails offer easy access. EBird shows 72 species in June. Maybe we can add to the list! Hope to see you there!

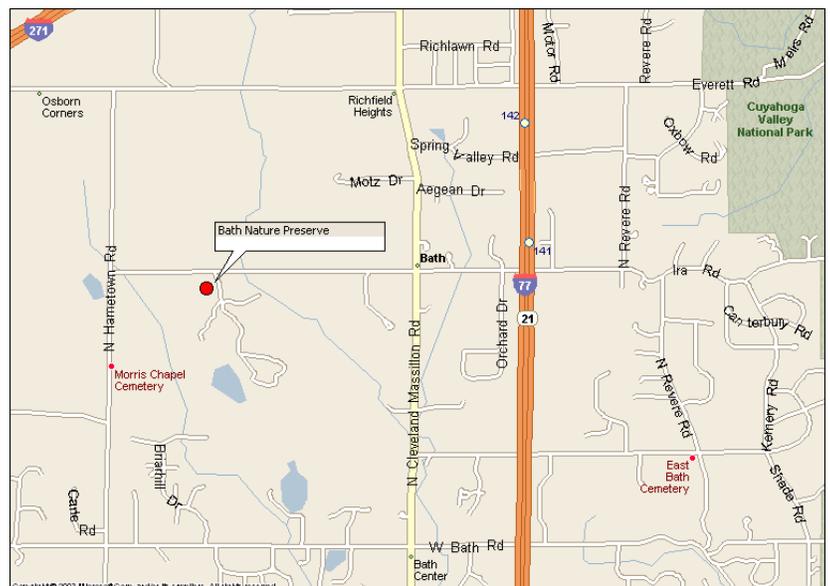
Directions:

The Bath Nature Preserve has an entrance on Hickory Farm Lane at 4160 Ira Road.

From I 77 South take exit 143 (SR 176/Wheatley Road). Turn right onto SR 176 (Wheatley Road). Turn South onto Brecksville Road (Cleveland Massillon Road) and turn right on to Ira Road. The entrance to the parking lot is on the left.



Eastern Bluebird
Courtesy Google Images



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, July 25, at 8:30 a.m. Lorain Impoundment Field Trip

Trip Leader: Patty McKelvey
Target Species: Shorebirds

Shorebirds are on their way south from the Arctic. Lorain Impoundment, built from dredgings of the Black River, has been a good stopover. While habitat varies from year to year, 112 species have been seen here in July. For a list, see eBird at <http://bit.ly/19VfJcw>

Directions: Take 90 West from Cleveland. Take exit 151 for Route 611 towards Sheffield/Avon. Go NORTH on 611. You'll pass gas stations immediately on the left and a McDonald's on the right. Continue on Route 611/Colorado Avenue for 6 miles. At one point, Route 611 will bend to the left (south). There is a Wendy's on this corner. CONTINUE STRAIGHT through the light (Colorado Avenue now). Go over railroad tracks. Not far after, you will dead end at Route 6/Lake Road. Continue straight through this light. Colorado immediately takes a hard left turn and turns into Lakeside Avenue. Hang left at this turn then immediately turn RIGHT into the Spitzer/Lakeside area. You'll see the restaurant and Spitzer/Lakeside building on your left and the impoundment ahead.

Here's an address to use in Google maps or GPS: (301 Lakeside Avenue, Lorain, OH, 44052). This is the address for the restaurant at Spitzer Marina, called "Jackalope Lakeside." The restaurant sits just to the south of the large impoundment.

A map is at: http://www.wcasohio.org/Lorain_Impoundment.htm



Great Egret
Courtesy Google Images

WCAS Sponsors Second Saturday Bird Walks at RRNC

Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper and Bill Deininger lead walks on the second Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. on the trails around the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center. New to birding? Grab some binoculars and join us. You will be amazed how fast you can learn to find birds by sight and sound. Meet in the parking lot of the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway in North Olmsted.

Upcoming dates for Monthly Morning with the Birds

Saturday, May 9
Saturday, June 13
Saturday July 11
Saturday, August 8

Saturday, September 12
Saturday, October 10
Saturday, November 14
Saturday, December 12

82nd Annual Series of Audubon Spring Bird Walks

From woodpeckers and woodcocks in April to colorful warblers and orioles in May, watch spring migrants en route to their summer breeding grounds during the 82nd Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks. Co-sponsored by local park districts, The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland & The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the walks open to all and are led by expert volunteers. Mark your calendar for Sundays, now through May 17 at 7:30 a.m. at many locations throughout the Cleveland Area. For a list of locations, visit the WCAS website or visit the Cleveland Metroparks website (its under 'Events').

www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/EventsProgramsCalendar.aspx



Left - Pileated Woodpecker.



Right - Oriole

Both Courtesy Google free Images

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, May 5, 7:30 PM *Pollination: A Photographic Primer*

Judy Semroc, Conservation Specialist with the Natural Areas Division of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will share information about pollinators and pollination in her program, "Pollination: A Photographic Primer". Through the use of macro photography, Judy will present detailed information on how pollination works in the natural world and how to attract beneficial pollinators, such as birds, butterflies and other insects, to your home landscape. Information will include how to landscape with native plants and for beneficial insects.

Editor's Comment - On a related note, see the article **Spring Is Here: Time To Think About Gardening for Birds** on Page 3.



Tuesday, June 2, 6 PM Picnic and Plant Exchange Note - This is NOT at Rocky River Nature Center *It IS at the Lagoon Picnic Area*

The final meeting of the 2014-2015 year is the WCAS picnic and plant exchange. We will meet at Lagoon Picnic Area in the shelter. Bring yourself, family, friends and your dinner. A charcoal grill will be lit if you would like to cook something. This is a relaxing evening with fellow members, family and friends. Wait, wait there's more! Bring your orphan indoor or outdoor plants, seeds, bulbs, transplants, cuttings and whatever plants you would like to find a home for. This plant exchange has been tremendously successful. If you don't have any plants to bring, that's fine ... but we hope you can take some home. Bring your binoculars too since we have a bird walk along the Rocky River.

We also have a bird walk after dinner. Our bird walk at the June picnic in 2014 was terrific with great views of Green Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher AND we rescued a Canada Goose tangled in fishing line. See you there, rain or shine.

Directions to [Lagoon Picnic Area](#)

Lagoon Picnic Area is in the Rocky River Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks. It is off Valley Parkway between Cedar Point and Spafford Roads. Take Brook Park Road to West 220th St. Turn north on W. 220th St. and immediately turn right onto Brookway Dr. Follow Brookway into the valley, and turn right on Valley Parkway. Follow Valley Parkway past Cedar Point Rd., over a ford, then look for Lagoon Picnic Area on the right.



Belted Kingfisher
Courtesy Google Free Images

July and August **NO PROGRAMS - GO BIRDING!**

Make Your Birding Count at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

By Penny O'Connor

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland and the Kirtland Bird Club are conducting a multi-year bird survey at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP). Formerly known as Dike 14, CLNP is part of the Dike 14/Doan Brook Important Bird Area. Surveys began in July 2014. At least one survey is done per week, and usually 2-3 surveys. Over 160 species have been documented, and spring migration is just beginning!

CLNP is the only undeveloped area of comparable size (88 acres) on the Lake Erie shore between Huron and the Pennsylvania border. It provides a critical habitat for birds. Some of the breeding bird species are: Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Willow Flycatcher, Common Yellowthroat and Brown Thrasher, to name a few.

The survey project is supported by a grant from the National Audubon Society and led by Laura Gooch. More birders are needed! You do not have to be a "super-birder" to help. Full Surveys consist of 5-minute point counts at 17 points throughout CLNP. There are some half-survey routes that surveyors can do if they do not have time to complete 17 points. The points can be done in any order, and multiple people can participate. Even if you can run just one survey per month, your data will help. The survey protocol was developed by Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Laura is ready to share the protocol and the route if you would like to be part of this important citizen science project.

The project has a Facebook page: Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Birding Surveys. There is also information on the WCAS website: http://www.wcasohio.org/dike_14_nature_preserve.htm

To volunteer, contact Laura Gooch, lgooch@alum.mit.edu

The following are excerpts from Laura's Progress Report 2 - Summary of Work to Date

The Avian Survey Project has progressed according to the timeline proposed in the grant application to the IBA Small Grants Program. Although unusually persistent cold and deep snow during January and February 2015 made it impossible to complete surveys every week during those months, surveys were conducted when possible, and regular surveys resumed in March.

Twenty-eight surveys were completed between 1 November 2014 and 1 April 1 2015. Sixty-two surveys have been completed to date, with the 1000th individual point count completed 1 April.

Point locations were evaluated at the end of 2014 to determine whether some points should be adjusted, and the count protocols were revised to clarify some questions and incorporate knowledge gained during the first season's surveys. Three of the point locations were adjusted on 16 March, and revised protocols were distributed to survey volunteers. Revisions to the protocols included the development of two formal partial surveys to encourage participation by those who do not have time to conduct a full survey.

More than 24 volunteers have participated in at least one survey, and 13 have participated in more than one. Six new volunteers attended two training surveys that were held in late March and early April and have expressed interest in doing future surveys.

All data have been initially entered by the volunteer surveyors, compiled in a central database, and uploaded into Cornell's eBird database. Data summaries have also been posted on the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society web site and in a Google docs worksheet on a regular basis

(see http://www.wcasohio.org/1_Stage/preserve/14-clnp-surveys2).

Surveys have documented 149 species of birds at the site since the survey's inception. Song Sparrows remained the species seen during the most point counts, followed by American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch, and Northern Cardinal. In terms of the sheer number of bird counted, Red-winged Blackbird tops the list, followed by Chimney Swift, Barn Swallow, American Robin, and Song Sparrow. None of the species of particular interest (Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Chimney Swift, Wood Thrush, and Red-headed Woodpecker) were observed between November 1

and April 1. This is an expected result, since none of these species winters in northeastern Ohio.

Notable species that were seen during the winter months and very early spring migration covered by this report include Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Snow Bunting, American Tree Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Eastern Bluebird, and Eastern Meadowlark.

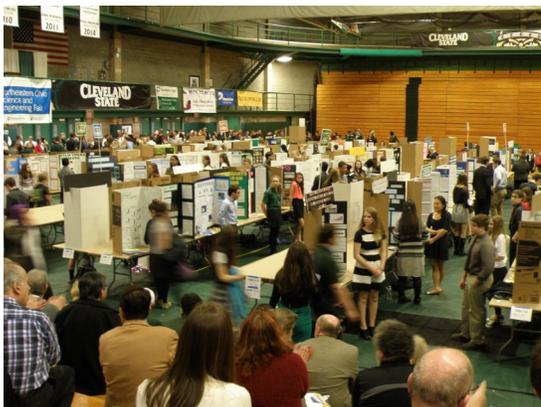
Welcome New Members

Sharon McIntyre

Thank you for becoming a member of the Western Cuyahoga Chapter. As always, we encourage all of our chapter members to attend programs, field trips and become involved!

VOLUNTEER SECTION

Volunteers Give Special Awards at NEOSEF



Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society made six special awards at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF), held March 10, 2015 at Cleveland State University. The top two awards went to Ashley King of Hudson High School, and to Jacob Murray of Mentor High School. Ashley King's project was entitled Bioaugmentation and Biomanipulation as Bioremediation of Depleted Oxygen Zones. She sought to see if soil microbes might augment natural processes to decompose hazardous algae blooms. Jacob Murray studied salt flows in the Mentor Marsh. Honorable mentions went Lauren Zipp of Beaumont High, John Criscione of Incarnate Word Academy, Jordyn Sutton from Saint Anselm Elementary, and Adam Benevento of Saint Raphael

Elementary. Lauren Zipp's project continued her work from the previous year on bioabsorption of heavy metals by invasive plants, such as garlic mustard and phragmites. John Criscione studied how silver maple leaves are deformed in a polluted environment. Jordyn Sutton compared sorbents which might be used in an oil spill, and Adam Benevento proposed a road runoff solution.

NEOSEF is open to students in grades 7-12 in a seven-county area. More than 600 students took part. The NEOSEF grand prize winners will go on the International Science and Engineering Fair. WCAS special awards judges were Michelle Manzo and Penny O'Connor.

Pictures courtesy of Penny O'Connor.



Penny O'Connor (left) and Michelle Manzo

Volunteer Thank You!

Thank you to Nancy Howell for staffing the WCAS display at the April 1 collaborative program between Kirtland Bird Club, Western Cuyahoga Audubon and Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Think and plan ahead. Western Cuyahoga Audubon likes to go to events to promote our chapter. Two events are happening in September and volunteers are needed. It's not too early to think September.

Conservation Symposium on Friday, September 11 from 8 AM - 4 PM at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The theme is citizen science, "*Science by the People: New Challenges, New Opportunities*". We plan on having a table display at the Museum. Volunteers are needed to assist in setting up the display, staffing the table to answer questions as visitors arrive, staff the table at the lunch break and take down the display at the end of the event. WCAS will pay for 2 volunteers to attend the event which includes keynote speakers, a series of presentations and lunch, plus the chance to look around the Museum. Please contact Nancy Howell at 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or nhowell@cmnh.org if you are interested in staffing the WCAS display AND attend a great symposium!

Backyard Biodiversity Blitz on Friday, September 18 from 3 PM into the evening at the Watershed Stewardship Center at the West Creek Reservation (Parma) of the Cleveland Metroparks. Western Cuyahoga Audubon will have a bird display, a bird identification game and will assist in keeping a checklist of birds sighted during the Blitz afternoon. It is a great way to meet the public who may know a little about birds ... and get them jazzed up. Three volunteers would be great to help set-up, work the display, be good at talking with visitors of all ages, assist with bird identification and take down at the end of the event. Our display may be located outdoors depending on the weather. Contact Nancy Howell for more information and to assist. Call 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or njh24425@hotmail.com

WCAS “ELECTIONS”

Each year WCAS has elections for President, Vice-President, other positions and Board members. Elections are held at the April meeting but this April, due to the lack of nominees ... or is it interest (?) ... elections could not be held. As a result, the present Western Cuyahoga Audubon Board will continue to lead the direction of WCAS. Board meetings are ALWAYS open to members and we would welcome anyone who is interested in serving to contact any one of the Board members. Our website and newsletter both have contact information.

New and innovative ideas to take the organization are encouraged. Remember, an organization is only as strong as the participation of its members. WCAS would always like to do more, with more involvement, but it takes each and every one of our members to step up in one way or another.

Spring Is Here: Time To Think About Gardening for Birds



In his landmark book, *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy states that gardeners have become important players in the management of our nation's wildlife. Through landscaping with native trees and plants such as oaks, elderberry, goldenrods, asters, cherry trees, coneflowers, sunflowers, cardinal flowers, etc., gardeners are planting "bird food factories" that help fuel migrations over thousands of miles, as well as helping local birds raise their young.

In her new book *Lawn Gone!*, Pam Penick laments the fact that whether you're in Palo Alto, Houston, Cincinnati, New York or Phoenix you see the same few species of grasses and foundation shrubs making up a national, undifferentiated landscape. For birds, this must seem like driving cross-country on the interstate and seeing the same fast-food restaurants at every exit!



Carbon Offset Project Update

Our special funds for the Carbon Offset Bird Project, which are used in conservation efforts, has had a change. In the spring of 2014, Western Cuyahoga Audubon was approached to assist with the purchase of land along the Rocky River in N. Royalton, in our Important Bird Area. The Board saw an opportunity to utilize the Carbon Offset money collected up until then and add to the funds from WCAS's treasury to total \$2000 and, as a result, the land was purchased. While access to the property by people may not be possible, the habitat protected will be utilized by wildlife and help the watershed of the Rocky River. Since our funds were utilized we started fresh and new with the Carbon Offset Bird Project funds. There were no new contributions this quarter. Please consider your situation.

Fund Total as of April 1 - \$164.00

Contact Us

WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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WCAS Chapter Newsletter

Published 4 times per year
February, May, August & November
By the Western Cuyahoga
Audubon Society

www.wcasohio.org is the
official Chapter Web Site

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

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We are now directed by the Board.

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Liz Clingman, Kit Birch



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