Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society May-July 2008



www.wcasohio.org

This IBA is Not For the Faint of Heart!

by Tom Romito, WCAS President

We could call this year's Important Bird Area survey an "Extreme IBA!" That's because this year, the third year of our five-year survey of the Rocky River Important Bird Area, will begin on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>May 24</u>, with a 31-mail Ultra Walk, five-mile Mini Ultra Walk, and 20-mile Biathlon.

What's that all about? As we did last year, WCAS is going to conduct a 31mile walk from Hinckley Reservation to the Emerald Necklace Marina in Rocky River to promote awareness of the IBA. This year, we're adding a five mile walk from Park Operations Headquarters to the marina for people who don't want to go the whole distance. We want people who are walking either distance to seek pledges from their friends and relatives to raise money for the on-going IBA project. A good way for people to pledge donations is so much per mile, for instance, a dollar per mile, or a flat sum. A form is available on the WCAS website at www.wcasohio.org.

In addition, WCAS is teaming up with Champ Racing to raise funds for the IBA. Champ Racing is a local club whose members compete in triathlons and biathlons. This event will be a Biathlon consisting of a 15-mile competitive bike race, followed by a competitive five-mile run. Registrants must pay a fee. In an amazing act of generosity and conservation-mindedness, Champ Racing is going to donate all of its proceeds to WCAS! Anyone can enter. Participants can obtain a registration form at www.wcasohio.org.

The plan is for Ultra Walkers to start out at the Buzzards' Roost in Hinckley Reservation at 6:00 a.m. They will pass Park Operations Headquarters on the Valley Parkway about 3:30 p.m. At that point, the Biathlon will begin with the bikers racing seven and a half miles south from Park Ops to Berea Falls Scenic Overlook and back to Park Ops. At the same time, the Mini Ultra Walkers will begin their five-mile walk north to the Emerald Necklace Marina. When the bikers return to Park Ops after their 15-mile race, they will park their bikes at Park Ops and run

the five miles north to the marina. All participants, including the Ultra Walkers, Mini Ultra Walkers, and Biathloners, should converge on the marina between 5:00-5:30 p.m., where we plan to celebrate their arrival, distribute t-shirts to all donors, and present overall and age group awards to Biathloners.

To make this grand event possible, we will need volunteers to staff critical crossing points along the parkway, guard bikes at Park Ops, and form up walkers at Park Ops for the Mini Ultra Walk. Anyone who is interested in helping with the event in this way should contact one of the WCAS board members, whose names and phone numbers are listed in this newsletter.



Ultra Walkers Tom Romito, Stan Searles, and Katy Genovese

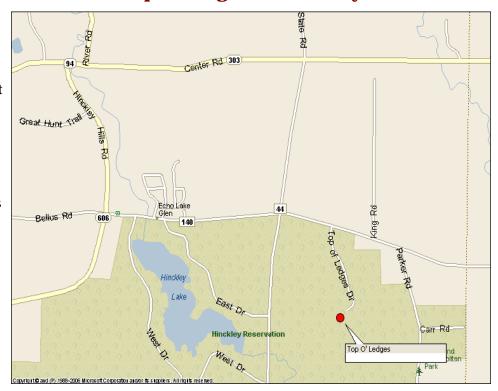
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Field Trips

Saturday, May 17, 2008...8:00 AM...Top O'Ledges in Hinckley

WCAS and The Western Reserve Land Conservancy (Medina Chapter) will discover together spring birding in Hinckley on both public and private land. We will meet at the **Top O'Ledges** parking area in Hinckley Reservation and walk to nearby private land where the WRLC has a conservation easement. Bill Jordan and Peg Bobel will be our leaders to look for spring migrants and early nesters and also learn about WRLC land conservation efforts.

Directions: From the North, take I-71 south to Rt 303. Take Rt 303 east to State Rd. (Rt 44). Turn South or right on State Rd; go to Bellus Rd. At Bellus Rd turn left (east). At Top O' Ledges Dr. turn right.

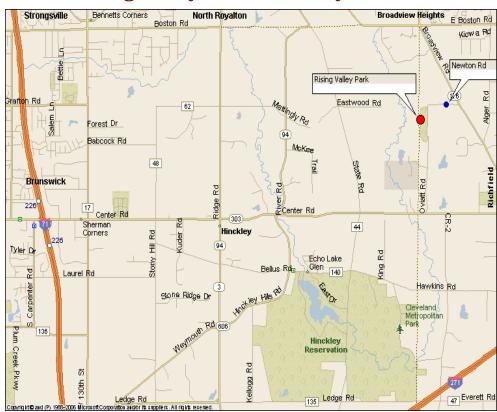


Saturday, June 14...8:00 AM...Rising Valley Park, Hinckley

Join <u>Dave Dvorak</u> and <u>Terri</u> <u>Martincic</u> for a fun bird walk near Hinckley Reservation. Data from this bird walk will be submitted to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II. Come to this walk and find out what the OBBA II is all about! 8

*See P. 6 for more detailed information.

Directions to **Rising Valley Park**: Take I71 to Rt 303. Go
east on 303 to Broadview Rd.
and turn left (Broadview Rd. is
past Hinckley Reservation). Look
for the County Engineer's sign at
Newton Rd. Turn left on Newton
Road. We will meet at the pavilion.



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Field Trips

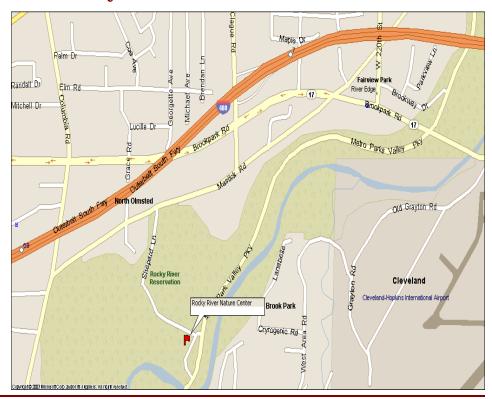
Saturday, June 14...8:00 AM...Rocky River Nature Center

Join <u>Ken Gober</u> for a fun bird walk at **RRNC**. Data from this bird walk will be submitted to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II. Come to the walk and find out what the OBBA II is all about!

*See P. 6 for more detailed information.

Directions:

From Mastic Rd., turn down Shepard Lane. Go down the hill to Valley Parkway. Rocky River Nature Center is at the intersection of Shepard Lane and Valley Parkway.



Saturday, July 12...10:00 AM to 4:00 PM...The Wilds in Cumberland

We have booked a trip to the Wilds in southern Ohio where we will try to have a birding and Safari tour in a Wilds bus if enough people register by **July 1.** The cost is \$20 per person, pre-registration is essential. Bring your lunch, or buy at the Wilds Café. To register contact:

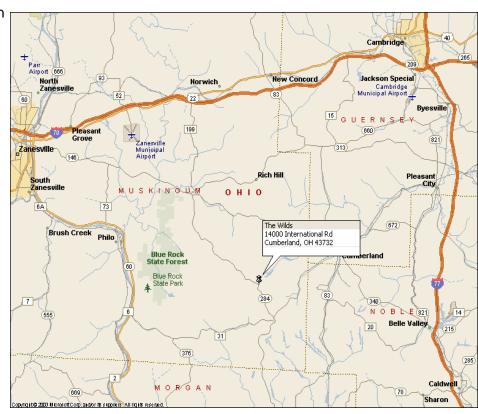
Penny O'Connor 216-676-4859 pjo@earthlink.net

From the North (via Cleveland, OH):

Take I-77 S to I-70 at Cambridge
Take exit to I-70 West
Follow I-70 to SR 83 (exit 169)
Turn left onto SR 83 South
Go 12 miles on SR 83 to Cumberland
Take SR 146 West 5 miles to Zion Ridge
Road

Drive 3.5 miles and turn left onto SR 284 Proceed 1 mile and turn left onto International Road

Proceed 1/2 mile to the Wilds' entrance



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, May 6, 2008 at 7:30 PM

Professor Sharon Lynn of the Biology Dept. of The College of Wooster shares this bluebird evening with Dean Sheldon (OBS/Firelands Audubon member from Greenwich). The program, "Blue COWS", considers the use of Eastern Bluebird trail monitoring in giving Wooster biology students insights into standard scientific research techniques. Well over 80 nest boxes in southern Huron and northwestern Ashland counties have been utilized in these studies since mid-summer 2006. Be prepared for a delightful, illustrated presentation dealing with "summer school for bluebirds."

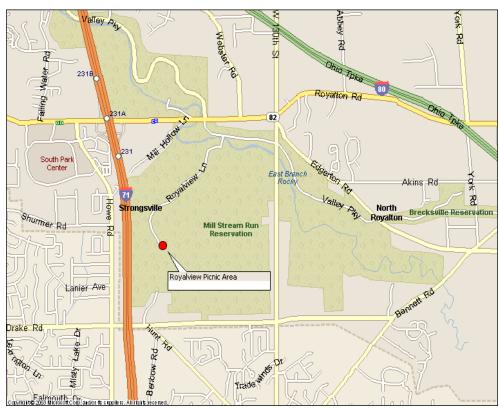




Tuesday, June 3...6:00 PM...Royalview Picnic Area, Strongsville

Come join us for our annual **Summer Picnic and Plant Exchange**. Bring your own dinner and we will supply the charcoal fire for cooking. Also, be sure to bring any orphan plants, seeds, bulbs or cuttings (outdoor or indoor types) to share with others.

To get to **Royalview Picnic Area** in Mill Stream Run Reservation: 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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Education Outreach

SCHOOL DAYS Event At Edgewater Park!

Assistance is needed for the upcoming SCHOOL DAYS program on **Wednesday**, **May 21** 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 if you can help. Please let Nancy know SOON!

March Science Olympiad

By Nancy Howell

The **Bird Identification** portion of Science Olympiad, held on the CSU campus on March 15, was very successful. Schools from throughout the Cleveland area participated. Students identified birds by sight, sound and silhouette, wrote information about nesting behavior, feathers and bird topography. One question also dealt with was how to use a field guide to identify a bird. The students seemed to have a great time and are always enthusiastic about this portion of the Olympiad. Thanks go out to the following schools that participated, as well as the teachers and parents that coach students or get them involved to find out that science is fun:

South Suburban Montessori – Brecksville/Broadview Hts. Woodbury School - Shaker Hts. Mayfield City Schools - Mayfield Hts. Hawken School - Lyndhurst Fitch Intermediate - Olmsted Falls Parma Able Learner Program - Parma Orchard Middle School - Solon Crestwood Elementary School - Elyria Fairwood School - Berea Seton Catholic School – Hudson Parkside Intermediate School - Westlake Cuyahoga Hts. Elementary - Cuyahoga Hts. Saints Cyril and Methodius - Lakewood Brookridge Elementary - Brooklyn St. Mary of the Assumption – Mentor Gesu Catholic School – University Hts. Stafford Elementary - Maple Hts.

Contact Us

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Visit our website 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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Citizen Science

Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II Blitz

By Terri Martincic

Twenty years ago WCAS participated in the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA) in the Rocky River area. The tradition continues with the OBBA II. Our forest bird point counts in the Rocky River Important Bird Area (IBA) have contributed sightings to 10 blocks.

On Saturday, June 14th we will spread out in small groups in the IBA including Rocky River, Mill Stream Run and Hinckley Reservations looking for nesting behaviors:

- *adult carrying material for nest
- *nest building
- *distraction display/behavior; broken wing display or divebombing humans
- *carrying food or fecal sac
- *occupied nest

Swallows will also receive special attention, as they are under represented in our forest breeding bird survey.

Cleveland Metroparks will participate with two 8 AM hikes, one at Rocky River Nature Center and one at the newly acquired Rising Valley Park near Hinckley Reservation.

See P.2 and 3 for maps and details.

Individuals wishing to volunteer for their favorite birding trail are encouraged to sign up in advance to help spread

folks out and minimize double coverage. This is open to birders of all levels and everyone is encouraged to participate. Let Terri know of any nesting birds found, or enter the observations into the database at: www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/

Join us for a potluck lunch at 12:00 at the Rocky River Nature Center (bring a dish to share), and learn what nesting birds are found in the Rocky River Important Bird Area. To register for this, contact:

Before May 15: Terri Martincic Cell 440-759-8220 Email Naturenut@wowway.com

After May 15: Rocky River Nature Center Phone 440-734-6660

For those interested in entering data on the OBBA II website, the Rocky River Important Bird Area blocks include:

Rocky River Reservation: 40A4NW, 40A4CW,

40A4SW, 40A3SE

Mill Stream Run: 40B4NW, 40B4CW, 41B4CE Hinckley Reservation: 41C5NW, 41C5CW, 41C5CE



International Migratory Bird Day

IMBD Theme 2008

Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People

Migratory birds travel long distances between breeding and non-breeding sites throughout the Western Hemisphere. In 2008, IMBD will explore the birds that make these fantastic journeys, the habitats on which they depend, and the people who are important to the conservation of birds and their habitats along the way.

International Migratory Bird Day is officially celebrated on the second Saturday in May in the U.S. and Canada, so most events will take place on May 10, 2008. In Latin America and the Caribbean, IMBD is celebrated in the fall, when migratory birds have returned to non-breeding grounds. So no matter where you are in the Western Hemisphere, you might find an IMBD event near you! Visit website:

www.birdday.org

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Weeders in the Wild

Weeders in the Wild has no official events at this time, but the following is another weeding opportunity you may want to participate in.

Saturday, May 10, 2008 10:00 am to Noon 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.



Pick up a Native Plant card at one of our Programs.

Any questions you can reach Terri Martincic at 440-759-8220 or email to Naturenut@wowway.com.For information from The Cleveland Museum of Natural History on native and invasive plants visit their website at http://www.cmnh.org.

For more information about invasive plant species see the Ohio Invasive Plants Council website at http://www.oipc.info/.

For weeding opportunities in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park or to know more about the alien and noxious plant species, Giant Hogweed, see website: http://www.nps.gov/cuva/supportyourpark/invasive-plants.htm

Did you know that the **native West Virginia White** butterfly die when its eggs are laid on Garlic Mustard? The West Virginia White looks like the familiar Cabbage Moth, but the West Virginia White is found in the woods.

Audubon Ohio Urges Ratification of Great Lakes Compact

Audubon Ohio advocates recently visited the statehouse to urge senators to take up the <u>Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact</u>, a multi-state law that would protect, conserve, and improve the water resources of the great lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin, and prohibit nearly all diverting or selling of water from the lakes. The bill, which passed out of the Ohio House in February, is being held up by the Senate through the introduction of competing legislation, SB 291, which would modify the Compact and potentially undermine its efforts to prevent ecologically harmful water transfers.

To learn how you can help Audubon Ohio support the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact, please visit their website:

www.audubonhio.org

Welcome New Members James Hamilton Audrey Kodger





Chapter Supporter Application

Chapter Membership year: September 1 through August 31 (adjustment made for mid-year)

Chapter Dues give you our newsletter, a nametag and a window cling.	Check one: Dues		1 or 2 people \$20			Family \$35	
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

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