



Rocky River IBA Volunteer Appreciation

By Kit Birch

On Thursday, August 31, Rocky River Nature Center was the scene of a wonderful event hosted by the board of WCAS to celebrate the success of our first Forest Breeding Bird Survey of the Rocky River Important Bird Area, and to show appreciation to all the volunteers that made it possible. Fifty volunteers enjoyed a gourmet meal donated by the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and catered by the zoo's own Aramark caterer.

data will be saved and incorporated into future environmental and land use practices.

The evening ended with a raffle in which items such as the lovely mums donated by Maria Gardens were distributed to lucky ticket holders. No-one went home empty-handed, however, thanks to the generosity of WCAS member Penny O'Connor, who donated individual bags of bird seed for each guest.

The evenings entertainment began with a lively story by a talented young lady story teller, Hanna Wynne. Next Tom Romito, who was the Master of Ceremonies, co-presented the IBA report and statistical findings with Diane Sigler, IBA Coordinator. They stated that all

It was a grand finale to our first year's survey and all the effort it involved. This is a very worthwhile project and we are all looking forward to not only continuing this survey, but to expanding it in future years.

Don't Forget to Vote on November 7

How does your congress person rank on conservation issues?

Take a look at the League of Conservation Voters website at: <http://www.lcv.org>. All you have to do is enter your zip code to see who your representatives are. Then you can click on "Scorecard" to see their environmental conservation score for the current session. You may also click on their name for detailed information on specific issues. Remember that a quick visit to your local library can make the internet available to you...just ask the librarian for help if you need it. You may also do a search using the League of Conservation Voters as subject.

at: www.house.gov
Your federal senators can be found at: www.senate.gov

The Ohio Environmental Council has also produced a handy directory of state and federal elected officials with pertinent information. You may request a copy at <http://www.theoec.org> and click on "Resources" or call them at 1-614-487-7506.

Want to contact your state and federal elected officials?

Your state representative can be found at: www.house.state.oh.us/
Your state senator can be found at: www.senate.state.oh.us/
Your federal representative is found

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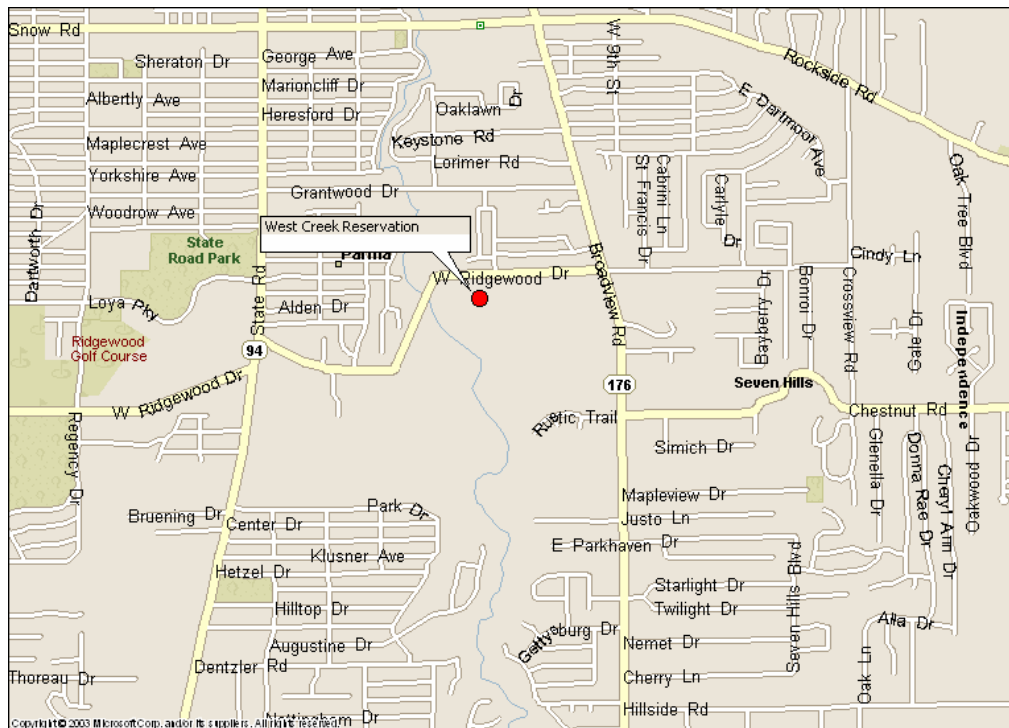
Field Trips

Saturday, November 4, 2006...8:00 AM...West Creek

West Creek Reservation in Parma, Ohio should still have some late fall migrants. Come join us and see. Ken Ballas will lead this field trip.

Directions from Cleveland: Take Broadview Rd south to Ridgewood Dr. Turn right (west) on Ridgewood Dr. The entrance to West Creek is on the left side (southside) of West Ridgewood Dr. approximately one-half mile from Broadview Rd.

Or from I-480: From I-480 exit at State Road and proceed south approximately two mile to West Ridgewood Drive. Turn left on West Ridgewood, proceed approximately one mile to the entrance of the reservation.



Saturday, December 30, 2006...Christmas Bird Count

WCAS's count is part of a three week national effort to monitor trends in bird populations. We cover a 15 mile radius centered in Lakewood. If you wish to participate in this count, contact Nancy Howell at (216) 231-4600 ext. 3225. We are looking for extra help this year to cover more areas so your help will be appreciated. You may also monitor your own feeders at home.

We will gather at the Rocky River Nature Center at 1:00 PM to compile our count data and to enjoy a chili pot-luck dinner. Please call Nancy if you can bring chili, desserts, etc. to share at our dinner.

The participant fee for the Christmas Bird Count remains the same: \$5.00 per field observer aged 19 and older. This will entitle you to receive a personal copy of the *American Birds—Christmas Bird Count for North and South America*. This publication is a \$25 value. Last year's issue can be obtained through National Audubon's website at

www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/ if you were not a participant last year. More information about Christmas Bird Counts, including results of all the counts done in North and South America, can be found at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/.



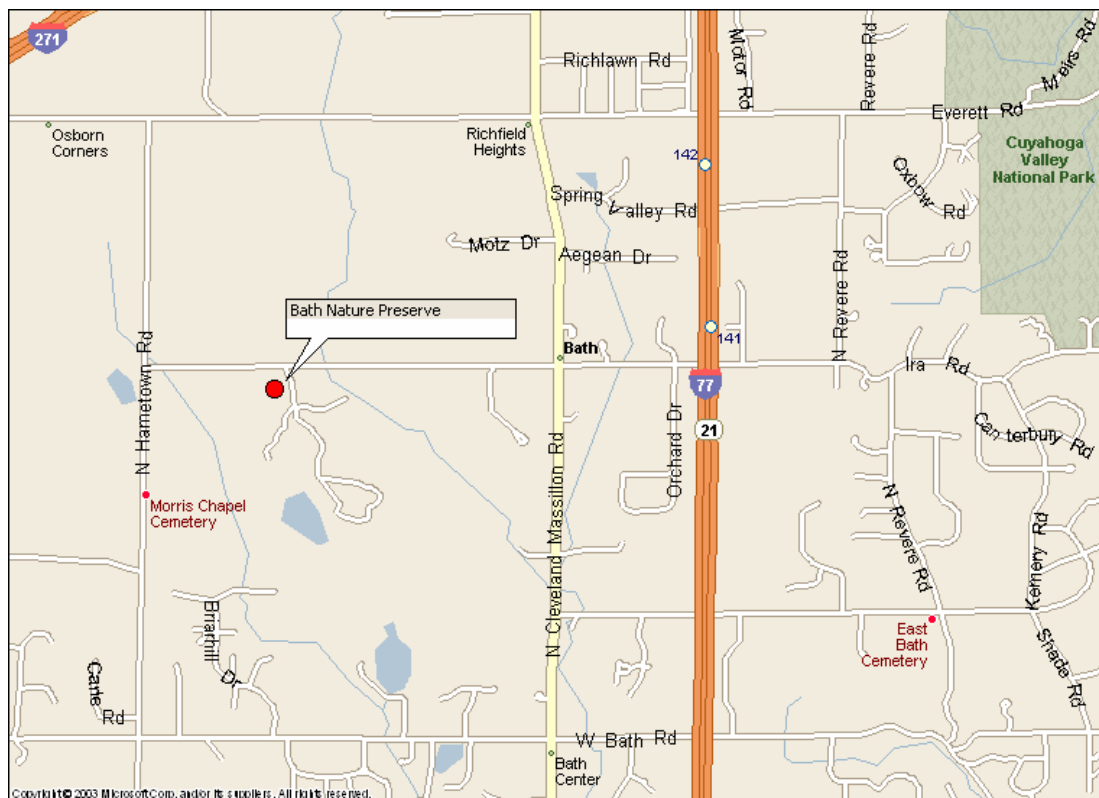
Field Trips

Saturday, January 20, 2007...10:00 am...Bath Nature Preserve

Clyde Witt will lead us on this field trip at **Bath Nature Preserve** in Bath, Ohio. We hope to see Northern Shrike, and Red-breasted Nuthatch among others. Come and enjoy a brisk Fall day with us.

Directions: The entrance is on Hickory Farm Lane

at 4160 Ira Road. From I 77 South, take exit 143 (SR 176/Wheatley Rd.) Turn right onto SR 176 (Wheatley Rd.) Turn South onto Brecksville Rd. (Cleveland Massillon Rd.) Next, turn right onto Ira Rd. The entrance to the parking lot is on the left.



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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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, November 7, 2006...7:30 pm

Imagine a time when the forests of the eastern United States had species like the American Chestnut along with maples and oaks. Imagine when native people and wildlife (like the turkey and passenger pigeon) feasted on the nuts of the American Chestnut. Imagine a time when the timbers of the American Chestnut made up the homes and barns

of settlers. In his program "**Under the Mighty Chestnut Tree**", Audubon member Joe Reardon will discuss the demise and, with hope, resurgence of this great tree through the efforts of the American Chestnut Foundation. Will we see this magnificent tree part of our forest ecosystem in the future? Come and find out for yourselves.

Tuesday, December 5, 2006...6:30 pm...Potluck Dinner

This is WCAS's annual festive pot luck dinner at which guests bring a side dish, salad or dessert with the meat and beverages provided by WCAS. We will once again have a silent auction during dinner, so please bring your new or gently used items to donate for this fun fundraiser.



Tuesday, December 5, 2006...7:30 pm...

Chad and Chris Saladin are fans of a very charismatic bird...the Peregrine Falcon. Who wouldn't be? Adapted to hunt other species of birds, built for speed and agility. This bird is a feathered dynamo! The Saladin's have been observing and filming

Peregrine Falcons at various nest sites in northeast Ohio. Their program, "**On the Prowl for Peregrines**" will be a highlight of their observations. As a bonus, the Saladin's will be bringing a guest...any guesses?

Tuesday, January 2, 2007...7:30 pm

Are you itching for spring birding? WCAS member, videographer and birder Bill Deininger, will share his spectacular videos of birds to whet our appetite for the upcoming spring season (or really any time of the year) in the presentation, "**What Bird is That?**"

As an audience we will discuss field marks and behaviors of the species highlighted to hone our skills on warblers, thrushes, waterfowl and others. Join us as we improve our skills for the new year's bird counts.

Attention Audubon Members:

This event sounds like a birder's dream come true. Check out the following letter to learn about this fun and educational weekend!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE AUDUBON OHIO STATE ASSEMBLY "THE BIRD CONSERVATION EVENT OF THE YEAR"

November 10-11, 2006

Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus, Ohio

Registration is now open for the Audubon Ohio State Assembly. "The Bird Conservation Event of the Year" will be held on Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11 at the Holiday Inn on the Lane in Columbus.

The Assembly will kick off on Friday morning, November 10, with an optional all-day outing to Ohio's famous Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area near Marion. Participants will have a chance to see the hawks and owls that make Killdeer a prime late fall birding habitat, as well as waterfowl completing their fall migration.

Those who want a shorter and less challenging outing can join an optional three-hour visit on Friday afternoon for to the Whittier Peninsula in downtown Columbus. Participants will explore the site of the future Columbus Audubon Center and observe the ongoing transformation of this brownfield area into the future "Central Park of Columbus." Listed as one of the top bird watching areas in Ohio by Jim McCormac in "Birds of Ohio," Whittier will surprise and inspire visitors.

Keynote speeches by Dr. Jerome Jackson and Pete Dunne on Friday and Saturday evenings will sandwich a day of workshops on Saturday, which will include a lunchtime keynote by Kenn Kaufman and a workshop by Dr. Stephen Kress. The Assembly will offer two dozen workshops on a variety of topics. There will be something for everyone!

Between sessions attendees will be able to visit exhibits and vendors, including the traveling store of the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm. Presenters will be available to sell and autograph books.

More information about the Audubon Ohio State Assembly is available on the Audubon Ohio web site, www.audubonohio.org, or by calling the Audubon Ohio office at (614) 224-3303. The web site includes a downloadable Assembly brochure and a registration form.

New Component Added to Rocky River IBA Survey!

Casual Observations



Red-tailed Hawk © Dave Lewis

Now everyone can participate in the Rocky River IBA Survey.

Do you have a special area in the Rocky River Watershed that you walk and bird regularly or even occasionally? If you do, we want to know what you see.

You can record your observations year – round. Your observations will serve as a supplement to the point counts for tracking

population changes over five years or more. The presence or absence of a species is what is being recorded for this project at this time. The more specific one can be about the location within the Rocky River watershed, the more valuable the data will be.

Here's how you participate.

Go to our website: www.wcasohio.org

Click on the Casual Observations link.

Log in using: (all lower case)

User ID: wcas

Password" Cleveland

Then enter:

Date

Location

Weather conditions

Time of observations period

Species of birds observed

Your contact information

That's it! It's easy. We look forward to seeing your reports.

Welcome New Members

Kathleen Brown
Robert and Caroline Chandler
Pat Hazelton
Linda Lessin
Carmella Marcum
Rick Oprzadek
Kathleen Tiburzi
Jan Zadar



Thank You

Terri Martincic and Kathleen Tiburzi for staffing a table at the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation Day Picnic on Aug. 19.

Nancy Howell and Terri Martincic for staffing the display at the Conservation Symposium at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History on Sept. 8.

JoAnne and Terry Gorges, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor and Kathleen Tiburzi for

staffing the WCAS display on Sept. 23 for the Rocky River Watershed Festival at the Rocky River Nature Center.

Liz Clingman for staffing the WCAS display at the Sparrow Symposium on Sept. 30.

Your efforts are important in fulfilling the Mission of WCAS to educate and advocate for birds and the environment.
Good job!

National Audubon Launches Healthy Yard Pledge

Since up to 20 percent of bird habitat in the U.S. is impacted by roads, yards, buildings, and other trappings of our urban society, Audubon is urging people to take the "Healthy Yard Pledge". You can sign up for this pledge at:

http://web1.audubon.org/at_home/pledge/
or

Simply try to follow as many of the pledge items as you can.

I pledge to the best of my ability to:

- Reduce pesticide use
 - Conserve water
 - Protect water quality
 - Remove invasive exotic plants
 - Plant native species
 - Support birds and other wildlife on my property
-



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

Western Cuyahoga Audubon's Mission & Vision

The mission of WCAS is to educate the public about conservation of the natural world through member involvement in chapter activities and community outreach.

The vision of WCAS is to encourage awareness and appreciation of the natural world in our community.

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



Red-headed Woodpecker © Dave Lewis



Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
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