

# WCAS To Adopt Rocky River IBA



www.wcasohio.org

The Feathered Flyer

On **Saturday, August 20, 2005**, 19 members of **WCAS** met at the Rocky River Nature Center to **develop a strategy for adopting the Rocky River Important Bird Area (IBA)**. Also in attendance were Dan Petit, Director of Natural Resources for Cleveland Metroparks, and Jerry Tinianow, Executive Director of Ohio Audubon. Jerry served as facilitator for the workshop.

So just what are Important Bird Areas (IBA)? They are tracts of land that Ohio Audubon has determined are crucial to the existence of birds and other wildlife because of their habitat. One of them is the East Branch of the Rocky River, which extends from Hinckley to North Olmsted, and north to the mouth of the river in Lake Erie. This watershed contains valuable forests and wetlands, such as the Rocky River Reservation, Mill Stream Run, Strongsville Wildlife Area, and Hinckley Reservation.

During the workshop, the participants developed a plan for WCAS to adopt the Rocky River IBA. The plan includes three working committees that will plan the adoption in detail. The three areas of effort include finding a coordinator for the project, studying how to conduct point counts for birds

throughout the watershed, and planning and organizing a formal dedication ceremony for the IBA in 2006.

Without data on the presence of birds and suitable habitat for them to thrive, valuable habitat in the watershed is subject to commercial development. Adopting the IBA means having a plan in place for teams of dedicated volunteers to conduct point counts of birds throughout the watershed year-round. A coordinator would collect the data and submit it to Cleveland Metroparks and Ohio Audubon, who would have the data available to combat development.

Once the plan is in place, we will be looking for people who can make a commitment to monitor specific areas on a continuing basis. If you are interested in helping in this way, you can call Tom Romito at (216) 741-2352 or E-Mail him at [tomromito@ameritech.net](mailto:tomromito@ameritech.net)

According to Ohio Audubon, **WCAS is the first Audubon chapter in Ohio to plan to adopt an IBA**. Ohio has 19 chapters and 63 IBAs. WCAS is setting the standard for Audubon chapters to take this initiative!

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### Welcome New Members!

- Cynthia Prebihalo
- Elza Phillips
- Chris Lotenero
- Irene Streidl
- James Kolpien
- Kathleen Dillemath
- John Gelski
- Elizabeth Hagen
- Dorothy Neff
- Bruce & Arlene Lehtinen

## November Program • Tuesday, November 1, 2005 • 7:30 PM

John Rodgers, an avid traveler and photographer, will take us from coast to coast in his program, "**A Bit of Mother Nature's World.**" John has done his research and added themes, such as migration, the water cycle and predator-prey relationships that are sprinkled throughout the show. Plan to attend and view the beauty of our country.



## November Field Trip • Sunday, November 20, 2005 • 8:00 AM

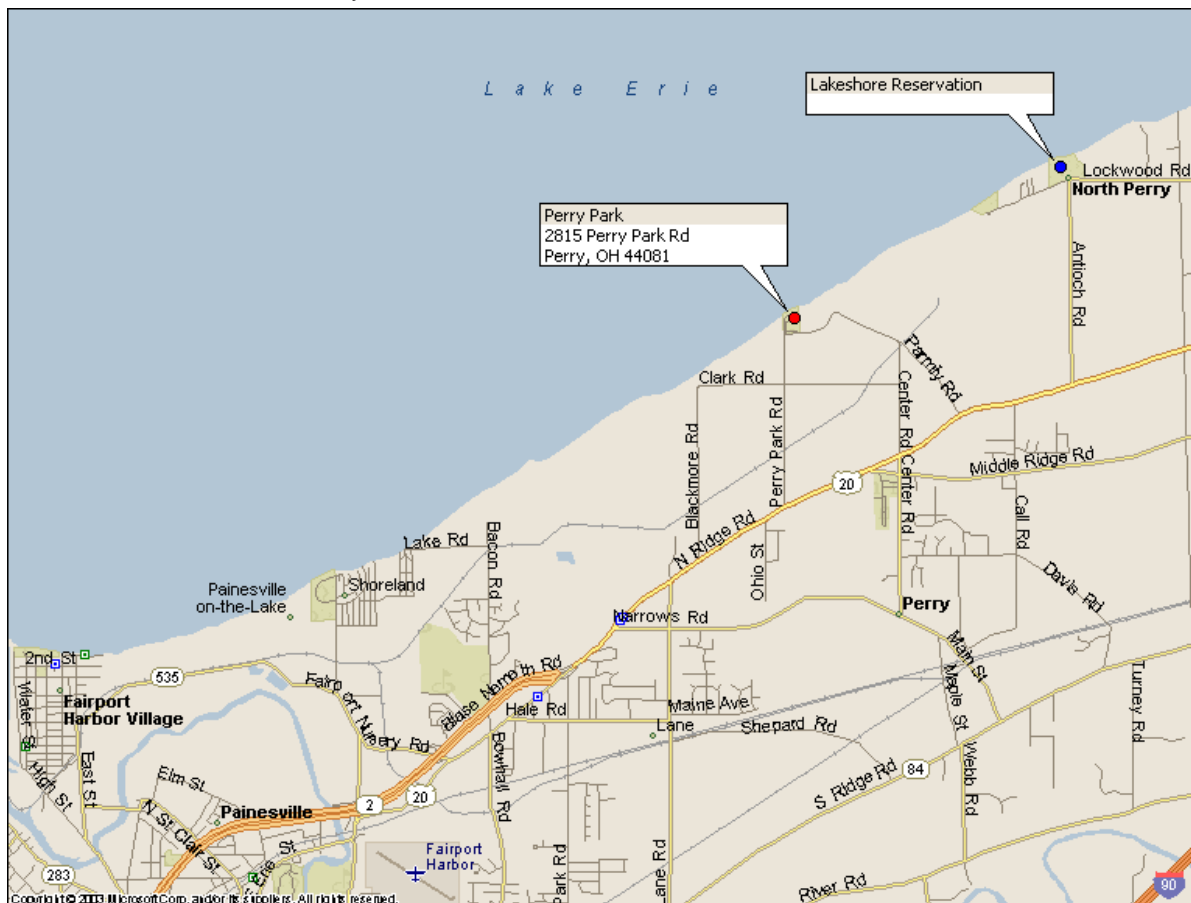
We will meet at **Perry Park**.

Perry Park's address is 2818 Perry Park Rd, Perry, OH 44081. Take Route 2 East. Route 2 turns into Route 20. Stay on Route 20 until you get to Perry Park Rd. Turn left on Perry Park Rd. Follow Perry Park Rd to the end.

Perry Park has a road right next to the cliff where you can park. There is also a shelter right there. If it is raining we could stand in the shelter and clearly see the lake. If it is

cold, your car will be right there.

We may go to [Headlands State Park](#) or [Lakeshore Reservation](#) if time, weather and birding conditions permit. \*\*It is a good idea to bring your lunch, as there are no restaurants close by.



# December Program & Potluck • Tuesday, December 6 • 6:30 PM



This is WCAS's annual **potluck dinner** so we start earlier than usual at 6:30 for those members who wish to participate. **NEW THIS YEAR:** We will have a **silent auction** so please bring new or gently used items to donate for this fun fund raiser!!

Our regular **program will begin at the usual time of 7:30 PM.** Talk about invasive species...no, it's not Purple Loosestrife or Garlic Mustard, but an animal called a Cane Toad. Our featured documentary, "**Cane Toads**", is not your typical documentary...be prepared for a humorous,

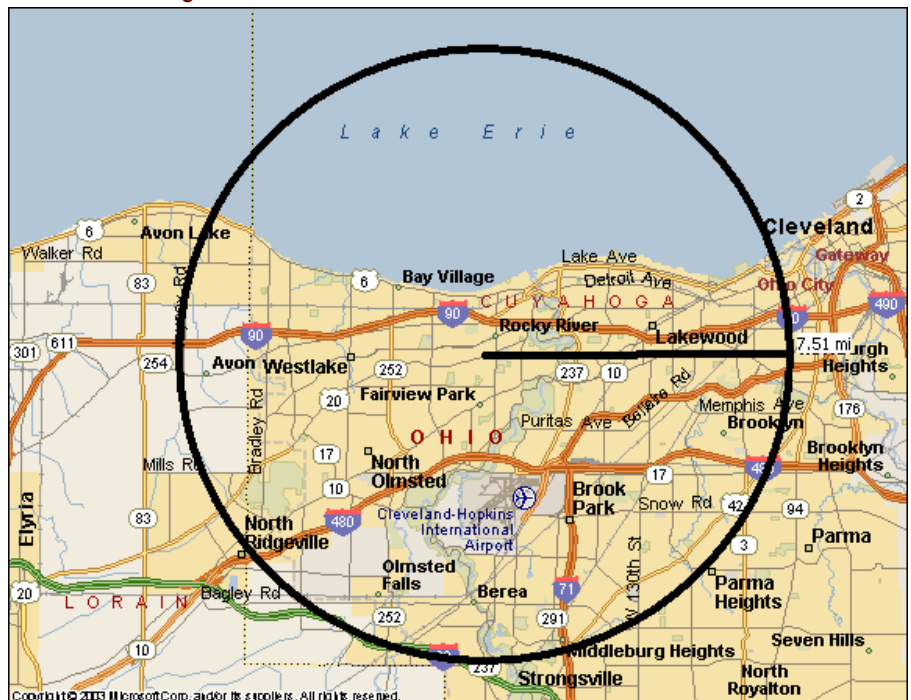
but true story of a non-native species introduced into Australia and the consequences it wrought on the environment. The animals are real, but you just might wonder if the people are!



## Christmas Bird Count • Saturday, December 31, 2005 •

**December 31, 2005** is the date of our chapter's **Christmas Bird Count.** Our count is part of a three-week, nationwide effort to monitor trends in bird populations. We cover a fifteen-mile diameter circle centered in Lakewood so many volunteers are needed! If you wish to participate in the count, please contact **Nancy Howell at (216) 231-4600 ext 3225,** The participant fee for the Christmas Bird Count is \$5.00. Participants who pay the fee receive a personal copy of the *American Birds - Christmas Bird Count.*

You may also monitor your own feeders at home. Since it is New Year's Eve, we will end the count earlier than usual and have our **chili dinner at 1 PM at Rocky River Nature Center.** We will compile all species seen at this time. Please let Nancy Howell know if you can bring chili, desserts, etc. to our dinner. Hope to see you there!



## Contact Us

### WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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**Visit our website**  
**[www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org)**

### 1. 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.

### Recording Secretary

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Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

# January Program • Tuesday, January 3 at 7:30 PM

Before the colonization of North America, most plants, in what we refer to today as “old fields”, were not here. Naturalist David Dvorak will have us take the “**Ecosystem Challenge**” as we learn how native plant complexes were suppressed and non-native

plants became the norm. Through photos of flora and fauna, we will contrast this with what healthy, North American grass-land ecosystems should look like.

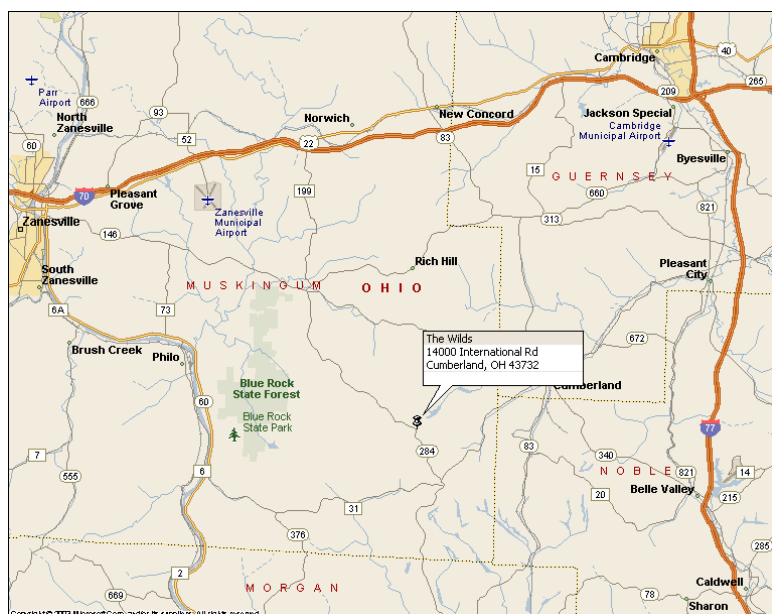
# January Field Trip • Saturday, January 21, 2006 • 10:30 AM

**The Wilds**  
 14000 International Road  
 Cumberland, OH 43732

We hope to see Short Eared Owls, Golden Eagles and maybe a Prairie Falcon. There are no restaurants in the vicinity, so be sure to **pack a lunch**.

**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. \*\* We will meet in the parking lot.



For more detailed map, go to our website at [www.WCASohio.org](http://www.WCASohio.org)

**If you are interested in carpooling to the Wilds, contact Mary Anne Romito at (216) 741-2352. Mary Anne will keep track of drivers and riders.**



## Chapter Supporter Application

**Why wait! Join WCAS as a chapter supporter.**

Circle one:	1 or 2 people	Family
Basic	\$20	\$35
Enhanced	\$40	\$55

Basic Dues give you our newsletter and a nametag.

Enhanced Dues gives you our newsletter, nametag and a WCAS patch.

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	Chapter Membership Amount \$

**Make your check payable to WCAS. Mail to Nancy Howell, treasurer,  
 19340 Fowles Rd., Middleburg Hts. Ohio, 44130**