

Partnerships: Key To Conservation In The 21st Century

by Tom Romito, WCAS President



www.wcasohio.org

The Feathered Flyer

Each fall, WCAS and every other Audubon chapter in the country has to develop what the National Audubon Society calls an annual plan. This plan describes what the chapter believes is going to be its focus for the following year. As you know, for the past five years, the Rocky River IBA Breeding Bird Survey has been this chapter's focus. Now we have to announce what the focus for 2011 is going to be.

As I said in the last issue of this newsletter, WCAS and a number of stakeholders have been meeting to decide what the future of the Rocky River IBA is going to be. This decision, called Vision 2020, is a work in progress. Your board of directors has been working diligently to frame a plan for next year. Naturally, our great programs and field trips will continue. It appears, as well, that partnerships are going to be the theme for next year's activities.

Partnerships are collaborative agreements between two or more organizations that govern what they want to achieve together. An example is what WCAS has agreed to do with Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Some time ago, the Zoo constructed a bird box trail to educate the public on what songbirds nest in the Zoo. Now seeking to improve the trail, the Zoo has asked WCAS volunteers to site and monitor boxes starting next year. In addition to our own volunteers, we have brought in the leadership of another organization, Brooklyn Centre Naturalists, to provide even more volunteer help for this project.

WCAS is also partnering with the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center (LENSC), located in Bay Village, to conduct field trips at the LENS

property and surrounding area. These trips would provide an opportunity for WCAS members and the public to see an area we have not visited lately. It would also enable LENS staff members and trustees to get acquainted with the nearby birds and wildlife under the leadership of our own talented members.

WCAS has also agreed to serve as a consultant with the Cleveland Metroparks to help them acquire new property. CMP currently has their sights on a portion of Seneca Golf Course in Broadview Heights. We will conduct a bird census on the parcel to help CMP prepare a grant proposal to purchase it. Currently under the ownership of the City of Cleveland, this property would help CMP make the Emerald Necklace a contiguous band of green space around Greater Cleveland.

These are just a few examples of the work WCAS is planning to do next year. As you can see partnerships are the key to conservation in the 21st Century!



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Field Trips

Saturday, November 13, 2010...8:30 AM...Wellington Reservation

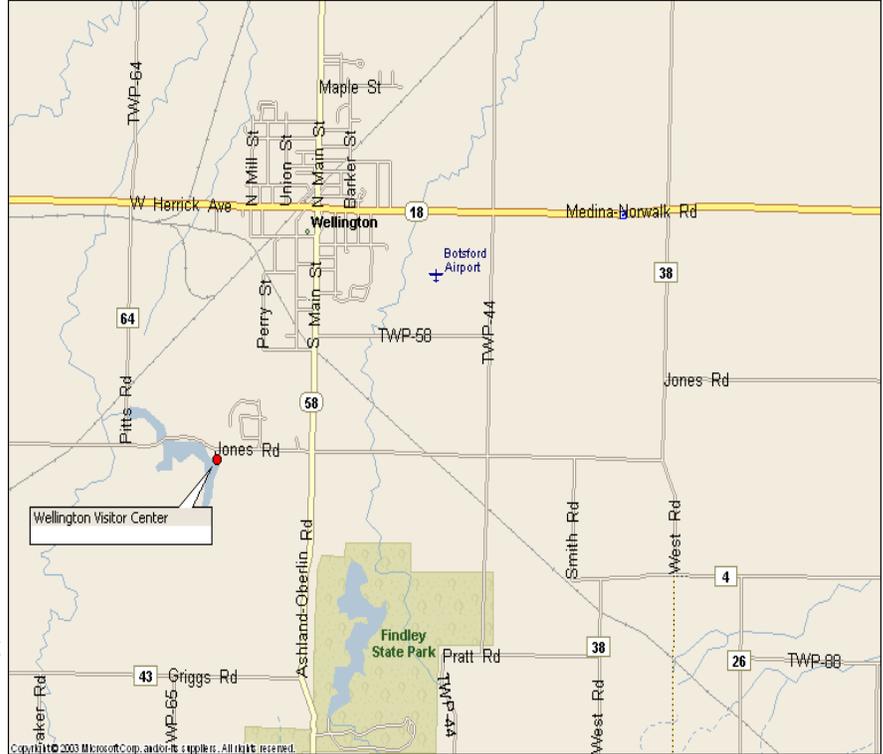
We will meet at the **Visitor Center** where Chris Grame will be our leader. We will walk a trail as well as visit the reservoir to look for waterfowl, so bring a scope if you have one. Dress for brisk, windy weather.

Directions from Cleveland:

**535 Jones Road
Wellington, Ohio 44090
440-647-2509**

Take I-480 west. Merge onto Ohio Rt. 19 and continue west onto Ohio Rt.20. Turn left (south) at Ohio Rt. 58 (Oberlin-Ashland Rd.). Continue south on Rt. 58 through the town of Wellington. Turn right on Jones Rd. Wellington Visitor Center will be on the left. **OR**

Take I-71 to Rt. 18 in Medina. Turn right (west) onto Rt. 18. Follow Rt. 18 all the way to Wellington. Turn left onto Rt. 58, then right onto Jones Rd.



Sunday, December 26, 2010....Christmas Bird Count

December 26 is the *BEST* day of the year! Birders are out and about in our Count Circle tallying as many species and individuals as possible. Some even head out before sunrise or after sunset to do owling. Won't you consider joining a group? Watching your feeder? Or simply walking the streets in and around your neighborhood (if it is in the count circle). **We will break at 1 PM for our fabulous pot-luck chili lunch at the Rocky River Nature Center** to tally initial species, then head out to mop up areas that have not been covered. Chilies of many types, from mild to wild, are brought, but don't forget the sides and deserts. The optional participant fee for the Christmas Bird Count remains the same, \$5 per field observer. If you pay the fee, you receive a personal copy of the *American Birds-Christmas Bird Count* after it is published next year which is actually a \$25 value.

If you wish to participate, contact Nancy Howell at (216) 231-4600 ext 3225 (work), (440) 891-1710 (home) or e-mail:



Field Trips

2010 Christmas Bird Count Areas

Area
Lakefront
Clague Park/Lakewood Park Cemetery
Big Met/Little Met Golf courses-Rocky River Reservation
Rocky River Reservation around Nature Center.
Lagoon Picnic Area to Bagley Rd. along Valley Parkway around Cleve. Hopkins Airport
Baldwin, Wallace and Coe Lakes area in Berea
Bradley Woods
Lake Isaac/Beyers Pond and environs.
Big Creek Parkway - Brookpark Rd to Stumpf Rd. Meet at 8 AM at the Snow Rd. Rd. Picnic area off of Big Creek Parkway just south of Snow.
Big Creek Parkway - Stumpf Rd. south to Fowles
Cleveland Zoo/West Park Cemetery/Big Creek Reservation
Tri-C Western Campus and Parks adjacent to Tri-C.
Lake Abrams/Southwest Hospital wetlands
Renaissance Retirement Community Property/Sunset Memorial Cemetery
Far Western edge of count circle (Jaycox Rd. in Lorain Co.)
Any neighborhood, green space or cemetery in the count circle - let Nancy Howell know.

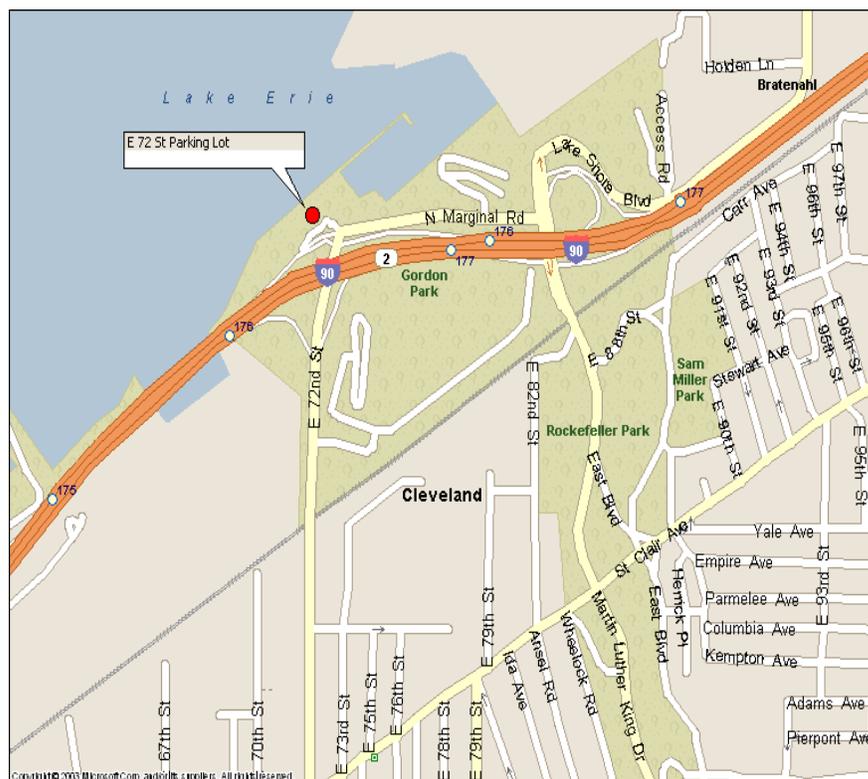


Sunday, January 23, 2011...9:00 AM...Lake Erie Gull Expedition

Fierce winter weather and fantastic birds! Beautiful ice formations and gulls feasting by the power plant. Meet WCAS at **Cleveland Lakefront**, East 72 St. by **Gordon Park**. Cleveland Metroparks naturalist Tim Krynak will lead. Bring a scope if you have one. Dress for cold, windy weather and icy conditions.

Directions:

From the west, take Memorial Shoreway and exit onto Martin Luther King Blvd. Turn north (left) toward Lake Erie. Go under the highway, then turn quick left. Pass the first parking lot, pass the boat docks. Turn right at the stop sign into Cleveland Lakefront State Park (Gordon Park). Drive toward left to the far end of the parking lot.



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. *** Please see bottom of page concerning February meeting.

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010 at 7:30 PM

Humans have admired birds for millennia. Is it their beauty, their flight or something else that is so attractive? Join us as educator and naturalist John Blakeman shares his 40 years of admiration and experience with hawks and falcons in the program, "**Of Hawks and Men**". Blakeman, a master falconer, has conducted raptor studies in Ohio and Nevada and currently advises hawk watchers in New York City and Philadelphia.



Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 6:30 PM



This is Western Cuyahoga Audubon's Potluck Dinner, but program runs at usual time, 7:30 PM. Please remember to bring your own place setting and a side dish or dessert; ham and turkey will be provided. Don't forget about our **Annual Silent Auction** during dinner! Bring your new or gently used or hand-made items to donate for this fun fundraiser, and some extra cash to buy great stuff. (Bird or nature-related items are preferred.)

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010 at 7:30 PM

Who doesn't love a lady beetle? Dr. Mary Gardiner is an insect enthusiast and, as project director in the Department of Entomology at OSU, Dr. Gardiner has enlisted citizens to participate in "**The Buckeye Lady Beetle Blitz!**" So what is the scoop on lady beetles? Dr. Gardiner will discuss the Lady Beetle Blitz, results from the Blitz data collection thus far as well as interesting facts and concerns about Ohio lady beetles.



Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 7:30 PM



Wildlife and people sometimes get along and sometimes they do not. Bears in your backyard? A deer diving through your window? Geese (and the stuff they leave behind) on your grass? Cuyahoga County Wildlife Officer Hollie Fluharty has to deal with wildlife AND people. Come meet her and hear "**Tales of an Urban Wildlife Officer**".



******Please note that our February 1 meeting will NOT be at the Rocky River Nature Center....it will be at the Reinberger Building, lower level of the Cleveland Zoo. Please see our website or our next newsletter for more information.**

Member News

See What the Wonderful WCAS Volunteers Have Been Up To:



WCAS volunteers are
Number 1!

Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History had a WCAS display staffed by Liz Clingman and Merida Martin.

Celebrate Urban Birds Event held at the Parma-South Branch Cuyahoga County Library had a WCAS display staffed by Marshall and Holly Graham & Family, Dave LeGallee, Merida Martin and Fran Mitchell. These members were able to help educate visitors (approx. 50 people) on what birds are in their neighborhoods, and how to invite more wildlife into their yards by planting the right kinds of plants.

The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (Dike 14) Open House had several members assisting. Joanne & Terry Gorges, Merida Martin and Tom Romito shared information about WCAS with visitors.

Brownie Hike led by Nancy Howell along the Lake-to-Lake Trail where a group of Brownies learned about habitats, plants, wildlife and how people have changed the land over time.

WCAS Hospitality Committee has a new member who bakes divinely...June Cangey. June helps ensure that our monthly meetings are enjoyable for all. Feel free to join this group anytime!

Welcome New Members



Jeanette Bill-Cole
Marlene Clifton
Lucy Ann Dahlberg
Carol Goepfert

Linda & Don Hollenbaugh
Cheryl & Mark Huber
Merida Martin
Earl & Martha Peck



Gulf Coast Restoration News

*Audubon Chapter Networker
Connie Mahan*

Public pressure to act after the BP oil spill disaster in the Gulf prompted the U.S. House to pass the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act (CLEAR). Two amendments to that bill mean big benefits for Gulf Coast restoration and habitat protection. The first amendment directs \$1.2 billion of the expected civil penalties from the BP spill to Gulf coast restoration, with Louisiana being the expected biggest recipient of that much-needed funding.

Improvement #2 to CLEAR includes language to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Act, though projects will still have to be scrutinized and selected through the annual appropriations process. That pot of \$900 million will buy a lot of wetlands and other habitat at risk from development and other threats.

The Senate has to pass a similar bill, but Audubon expects action during the lame duck session after the November elections and will be working hard to ensure it measures up to the House bill.



Shade Grown Coffee



Smithsonian Report Shows Bird Friendly Shade Coffee Farms Are Next Best Thing to Natural Forest



Washington, DC, Sept. 22, 2010 – A [Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center](#) review of more than 50 studies in regions ranging from Central and South America to Indonesia over the past 15 years demonstrates that shade-grown coffee farms far outshine sun-grown coffee farms when it comes to sustainability measurements. According to a report released today by the Center, *The Ecological Benefits of Shade-Grown Coffee: The Case for Going Bird Friendly*, the shade-grown farms demonstrated increased numbers and species of birds as well as improved bird habitat, soil protection/erosion control, carbon sequestration, natural pest control, and improved pollination.

While sun-grown coffee systems can have coffee higher yields, the shaded farms easily outperform them in terms of sustainability, with the forest-like setting providing an array of ecological services that offer both direct and indirect rewards to farmers and the environment. The studies support the notion that the ecological benefits of shade-grown coffee are as high-quality as the coffee itself—the taste of which can greatly improve with a shade cover.

The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center makes the case that shade-grown coffee production is the next best thing to a natural forest, putting to rest any arguments about the long term sustainability of a sun-coffee system. For example:

- Coffee plantations in southern Mexico (Chiapas) provide habitat for 180 species of birds (46 being migratory), a richness rivaled only by natural forest habitats in the region. In the same region, nearly 60% of forest birds made use of BF farms, compared to only 40% in non-BF farms.
- A study in Nicaragua showed that open-sun coffee lost more than 2.5 times the soil from erosion compared to a shade-grown coffee on the same hill sides.
- Biological control by birds acting as predators on the Coffee Berry Borer in Jamaica was calculated to be worth \$75/ hectare in 2005, averaging \$1,004/farm studied. This equals approximately 30% of the per capita gross national income for that time.

“While a shade-grown coffee system lacks the complexity and richness of untouched forests, for an agricultural land use it is impressive how diverse and complex these agricultural lands are,” said Robert Rice, author of the report with Mauricio Bedoya and coordinator of the SMBC’s [Bird Friendly](#) standard. The standard is considered by many to be the “gold standard” for shade-grown coffee given its science-based requirements and the pre-requisite that the coffee production be certified organic.

Contact Us

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*Visit our website
www.wcasohio.org*



WCAS Chapter Newsletter

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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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VOTE 2010



How Does Your Congressman/woman Rank on Conservation Issues?

In order to make informed decisions as to what candidates best reflect your conservation priorities, you may want to do some research of your own.

Take a look at the League of Conservation Voters website at:

<http://www.lcv.org/scorecard>

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.

Want to contact your state and federal elected officials?

Your state representative can be found at: www.house.state.oh.us/ or 800-282-0253

Your state senator can be found at: www.senate.state.oh.us/ or 800-282-0253

Your federal representative is found at: www.house.gov ; 202-224-3121

Your federal senators can be found at: www.senate.gov ; 202-224-3121

The Ohio Environmental Council has also produced a handy directory of state and federal elected officials with pertinent information. You may view a copy at: <http://www.theoec.org> and click on "Resources" or call them at: 1
[-614-487-7506](tel:6144877506).

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.

Circle one:
Dues

1 or 2 people
\$20

Family
\$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 SOCIETY

VOTE NOVEMBER 2

There are many conservation issues such as preserving bird habitat, cleaning up the Great Lakes and our local water sheds, climate change, etc. that need to be addressed as soon as possible. Remember to vote for **conservation-minded candidates** if you care about these and similar issues.

** Remember that shade-grown coffee is now being sold at our monthly meetings.*
Good for bird habitat, good tasting and good for WCAS fundraising!*

