



Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction Good Food, Great Stuff & an Audubon Program too!

By Penny O'Connor

Join us at the Rocky River Nature Center Tuesday, December 4, 2012 for a potluck dinner and silent auction. Dinner and auction are at 6:30 p.m. The program, "John James Audubon, his Life and Art" begins at 7:30 p.m.

Bring a dish to share for dinner. WCAS provides ham, turkey and beverages, including our Audubon shade-grown bird-friendly coffee. As always, friends and family are welcome.

The silent auction is one of our most fun annual FUNdraisers. Bring hand-made, or new or gently-used nature and bird-related items to donate. Don't forget a bit of cash so you can shop the silent auction. What treasures will you bring home?

We will be most grateful to have a few volunteers to help with auction, dinner and cleanup. Many hands make light work. Contact Penny O'Connor at (216)676-4859 or pjo@earthlink.net

WCAS Carbon Offset

Carbon Offset Support from The Ohio Ornithological Society

The Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) has made a generous \$250.00 donation to the WCAS Carbon Offset fund. Penny O'Connor accepted the check on behalf of WCAS at the OOS Shorebird Symposium, September 29, 2012 at Lakeside. This brings our fund to \$390.48, to be used toward habitat preservation in the Rocky River Important Bird Area.

The Carbon Offset Bird Project is a means for birders to compensate for gasoline burned to see birds, by donating toward habitat preservation. A fund launched at the 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium supported Meadowbrook Marsh, a new nature preserve in Danbury Township, Marblehead Peninsula, Ohio.



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Field Trips

Sunday, November 18, 8 AM Migrating Waterfowl Wellington Reservation

Trip Leader: Erik Bruder

Wellington Reservoir is a waterfowl magnet in late fall. Expect about 10 species of waterfowl, sometimes in large numbers, with occasional rarities such as Greater White-fronted Goose and Cackling Goose. Bring a scope if you have one. Dress for the weather, then add a layer or two if it is chilly. This is a windy spot! Access note: There is handicapped parking right next to the water at Wellington Reservoir. With a handicapped tag or plates, you can drive up the slope and park close in. Depending on sightings and weather, we can stay at the reservoir, walk the trails or we can proceed to other waterfowl spots. Wellington Reservation Visitor Center has restrooms. It is across Jones Rd. from the reservoir, and a short distance west.

Directions to Wellington Reservoir from the Cleveland area:

Follow I-480 West. West of North Olmsted, after the Lorain Rd. exit it becomes Ohio Rte. 10. After 6

miles, Ohio Route 10 becomes Ohio Rte. 20. After 9 more miles, turn south on

Ohio Rte. 58. Go 8.2 miles, through the town of Wellington. Just on the outskirts

of Wellington, turn right on Jones Rd.

Watch for the entrance to the reservoir, after about 1 mile on the right. The visitor

center is a short distance past the reservoir, on the left.

Map and some alternative routes are at:

www.wcasohio.org/wellington_reservation_visitor_c.htm

Info from the Lake Erie Birding Trail:

www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/LakeErieBirdTrailIndex/trailandloop/huronlorainloop/wellingtonreservoir/tabid/22161/Default.aspx

Map and some alternative routes are at:

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Sunday, December 30 113th Christmas Bird Count

Leader/Coordinator: Nancy Howell

For our December field trip, the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society will participate in the **113th Christmas Bird Count**. We will cover a fifteen mile diameter circle centered in Lakewood (see map). Our count is part of a three-week nationwide effort to monitor trends in bird populations. The overall count runs from December 14, 2012 through January 5, 2013. If you wish to participate in the count, contact Nancy Howell at (216) 231-4600 ext. 3225 (work), (440) 891-1710 (home) or e-mail nhowell@cmnh.org.

This year there is exciting news about the Christmas Bird Count ... it is now FREE. Audubon will no longer charge a \$5.00 per participant as they have done in the past, which helped defray some of the cost of the publication of CBC results in American Birds. To minimize the effects of the loss of income, American Birds will no longer be printed but will have an online delivery of the summary of the CBC results. Think about the amount of paper being saved! In addition, results from an Audubon survey indicated that an interactive, online version of the magazine would better suit the needs of participants. With online delivery a new interactive web presence will be able to include photos, summaries and features as they are completed. The CBC will become part of the Citizen Science projects of Audubon. *(Continued, page 3)*

Field Trips

All are invited to participate in the WCAS portion of the count. Please mark your calendars, check the Christmas Bird Count portion of the WCAS website and check our Count Circle. There you will find the list of areas needing coverage ... and areas that have not been covered. We need experts and beginners alike to be out in the field, out in your neighborhood and even watching your bird feeders in our count circle. If you wish to be out part of the day, that is fine. If you want to drive a particular route ... great ... just as long as the area you cover or the feeder you watch is in the count circle. Contact Nancy Howell if you have questions about the count circle.

We will take a break at 12:30 PM for our chili lunch and a quick tally of species at the Rocky River Nature Center. It is great to warm up and get an idea as to what has been seen ... or missed. Some choose to go out after lunch to "mop up" areas that were not covered. Join in, have fun, see some birds, bring some friends and help with a Citizen Science Project. We are also looking for people to bring chili, desserts, etc. to our dinner. Again, call Nancy. Please contact Nancy Howell for more information, to sign up for an area and/or if you would like to contribute food for the dinner.

To see results from previous years and to learn more please visit <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>.

More information about Christmas Bird Counts, including results of all the counts done in North and South America can be found at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>.



Saturday, January 12, 9 AM Avon Lake Power Plant

Leader: Gabe Leidy

Target Species: Gulls & Winter Waterfowl

Come out to Lake Erie and get your 2013 birding year list started. We will bird the lakefront at **Avon Lake Power Plant**, usually a good spot for gulls and waterfowl. We may move to other lakefront gull and waterfowl spots, depending on birds and weather. Gabe Leidy leads.

Directions: I-90 West to SR-611. Turn right (west) on SR-611 and right (north) on Miller Road. At US-6 (Lake Road) turn right (east) and turn left into the parking area at Miller Park.

Alternate directions along Route 6 Lake Rd: Go to the western edge of Avon Lake on US 6 (Lake Road). Go into the parking area at Miller Park, on the north side of the road.

Note that the Miller Park restrooms are closed in winter. Those traveling from I-90 may want to make a coffee or rest stop at McDonald's at I-90 and SR 611.

The map (right) is also at: http://www.wcasohio.org/avon_lake_power_plant.htm



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 6, 7:30 PM

eBird, an Online Checklist Program
A bird's-eye view!

eBird, a real-time, online checklist program, can help you keep track of birds you have seen and show you where other birders have found the birds you want to see. eBird is a citizen science project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Avid birder, Ken Ostermiller, will present a live demonstration of the eBird web site and learn how eBird can help you in his program, "eBird: Good for the Birds, Good for You".

The Cornell Lab
of Ornithology

Audubon

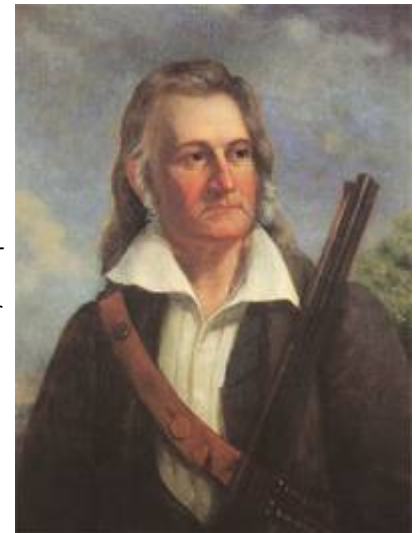
Tuesday, December 4, 6:30 PM

Potluck Dinner & Program
John James Audubon, His Life and Art

This is Audubon's potluck dinner. We begin early for dinner; the program starts at 7:30 PM.

John James Audubon's achievement, his illustrated book of "The Birds of America" was both technically and artistically the most ambitious and greatest illustrated book of the 19th century, if not any period. Yet Audubon is difficult to fit into the narrative of American art. Dr. Henry Adams, Professor of American Art at CWRU, will trace Audubon's remarkable biography and business career and discuss how it culminated in his career as an artist and naturalist in the program, "John James Audubon, His Life and Art."

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.)



John James Audubon

Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 PM

Nomadic Birder: Backpacking Across Africa

Ethan Kistler, birder and entomologist, will be presenting on his four-month odyssey across Africa. Relying on hitchhiking and human kindness he made his way across nine African countries, absorbing local culture, unique birds and fantastic wildlife in his program, "Nomadic Birder: Backpacking Across Africa." A native Ohioan, Ethan has been birding since about the age of 10. As member of the Ohio Young Birders Club in 2007, Ethan's ABA list was 517! Although birding came first, he has also branched out into the study of insects, and has been a contributing editor to *Bug Spot*. You can check out his website at nomadic-birder.blogspot.com.



Programs

February Field Trips - Mark Your Calendar!

WCAS has two great field trips planned for February. We will scan the lakefront for gulls and waterfowl with Tim Krynak at 9 a.m. Sunday, February 3, 2013. Meet at Perkins Beach. For the Great Backyard Bird Count, we join Lake Erie Nature and Science Center on Sunday, February 17, 2013 at 9 a.m. Gabe Leidy will lead our walk. Great Backyard Bird Count is a national citizen science event sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Bird Studies Canada. Watch for more details and maps for the February field trips in our next newsletter.

Metroparks Monthly Morning with the Birds at Rocky River Nature Center

Want to learn more about birds in the Rocky River Valley? Attend Rocky River Nature Center's Monthly Morning with the Birds. See the WCAS calendar [<http://www.wcasohio.org>] or check the Emerald Necklace [<http://www.clemetparks.com/aboutus/info/EmeraldNecklace.asp>]

Saturday, November 10, 2012: 9-11 a.m.

Saturday, December 8: 9-11 a.m.

Enjoy a walk with Naturalist Ken Gober along wetlands and through forest. Rocky River Nature Center is located at 24000 Valley Parkway in Rocky River Reservation, north of Cedar Point Road in North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Thank you, Renewing Members!

As you know, our new fiscal year has just begun and along with it, WCAS conducted it's annual membership renewal drive. Thank you to all who renewed! If you have yet to renew, it's not too late! Non-members are encouraged to join, as well. Please see the form on Page 8. Renewing members include:

Rachel Abernethy
Gayle Albers
Suzanne Aldrich
John and Janice Andes
Nidia Arguedas
Mary Bartos
Nancy Beheim
Dennis and Kit Birch
Laurie Boylan and Dave Lewis
Kathleen Bradley
Erik Bruder
Don and Martha Burrows
June Cangey
Ann and Dwight Chasar
Stephen and Beth Cherico
Bill and Barb Coleman

Sara Cooley
Lucy Ann Dahlberg
William Deininger
Glenn and Mardi Dumonthier
Terry and Mark Duncan
Elva Edger
Charles and Bonnie Erickson
Maria and Charles Finchum
Tom Fishburn
Dale Gaul
Audrey and Paul Goebel
Terry and Joanne Gorges
David and Justine Helm
James Hamilton
Carol Hobart
Heather Hodges

Mark Hofelich
Jan Holkenborg
Nancy and Donald Howell
John and Susan Hric
Mary Lou Hura
Fred and Elizabeth Innamorato
Edward Innocenzi
Richard and Karen Kassouf
James Kolpien
Kim Langley
Mary Lou McGuire
Wendy Miller
Kurt Miske
Alice Mitchell
Marie Monago
(Continued on Page 7)

Want to be a WCAS Board Member?

Please know that opportunities abound in WCAS. How about considering these:

Data Entry/Spreadsheet Development
Presentation/Teaching Outreach
Contact Development
Hospitality for Meetings
Fundraising

Planning
Arranging Field Trips
Leading Tours or Field Trips
Event Participation
Record Keeping

Welcome New Members

Ernest Boaeuf
Jen Douglas
Louise Haar
Bob Hanna
Susan Lendvay
Judy McCarty
Joseph & Janelle Tomashefski



Volunteer Section

Thank You Volunteers - NASA Event

Sustainability was the theme of the day September 13 at NASA Glenn Research Center for the kickoff of the Combined Federal Campaign. WCAS volunteers staffed tables to meet and greet NASA folks and tell about bird conservation in the Rocky River Important Bird Area.

Thanks to: **Nancy Beheim, Joanne Gorges, Penny O'Connor, Laura Obloy, Diane Sigler & Barry Wolfe** for helping to educate and inform NASA affiliates.

Opportunity to Volunteer - Science Fair Judging

Want to encourage some talented science students? Do you have a science background or a special interest in science? If yes, please consider volunteering as a science fair judge for Western Cuyahoga Audubon. Science Fair judging is interesting and rewarding, and requires a commitment of just one afternoon.

For the past few years, WCAS has made Special Awards at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF). Last year more than 600 students competed from 80 public, private and parochial, plus home-schoolers in a seven-county area. The WCAS special awards go to students presenting exemplary projects dealing with birds or conservation, with special emphasis on local watersheds.

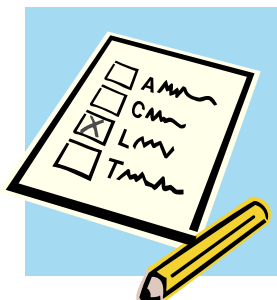
NEOSEF judging will be on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 from 1-5 p.m. at John Carroll University. Ideally we will have several judges in order to review all of the projects in our areas of concern. Interested? Please contact Penny O'Connor at pjo@earthlink.net, or (216)676-4859.

Election Year Information

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>. 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

Your state senator can be found at: www.senate.state.oh.us/

Your federal representative is found 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 view a copy at <http://www.theoec.org> and click on

Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp

Get your 2012 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, available from WCAS at programs and field trips. The \$15 stamp features a spotted salamander. Your packet also includes a lapel pin, a window sticker and an information card. Buying this collectible wildlife stamp will show that you support:

- ✦ habitat restoration, land purchases and conservation easements
- ✦ keeping common species common
- ✦ endangered & threatened native species
- ✦ educational products for students and wildlife enthusiasts
- ✦ wildlife and habitat research projects



Carbon Offset Project Update

Modeled after the Carbon Offset Bird Project launched at the 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium, Western Cuyahoga Audubon has begun a project to offset the carbon impact of some of the driving done during our field trips. The process involves participants voluntarily contributing toward the fund based on mileage and the size of vehicle driven. The WCAS website has more information and a handy form to calculate the amount you wish to donate. Click on Field Trip then Carbon Offset Project. Money generated will go toward habitat preservation and restoration in the Rocky River Important Bird Area or other area within the range of the Western Cuyahoga Chapter. Consider contributing to the Carbon Offset Project when you take a birding trip. The birds say, "Thank you".

Total collected to date - \$390.48



Bald Eagle © John Sims

Editor's Section

Notes from the editor; a potentially recurring section as space permits -

- As I put this issue together, I notice a recurring name, Penny O'Conner. As you may know, Penny is a member of Board and a tireless volunteer for many projects. As evidenced in this newsletter, she is incredibly involved in the causes related to our mission statement. As the editor, I am thankful for her written contributions, which are always well written, concise and insightful. Thank you, Penny.
- I know that many birders are also camera people. If you take a picture that you believe is especially provocative, different or just plain cool, please feel free to submit it to us. I will happily give credit where credit is due if we are able to use your picture.
- We are always open for suggestions as to how to improve the content of this newsletter. If you have a suggestion, please feel free to submit it to us. My email is kurtsacct@sbcglobal.net.
- Please consider joining us at the Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction. It's always a good time and benefits a worthwhile cause. Bringing a side dish or dessert dish is always a plus.

Renewing Members (continued from page 5))

Penny O'Conner & Page Stephens
Earl & Martha Peck
Johanna Rakevich
Tom and Mary Anne Romito
Inga Schmidt

Stan Searles
Diane Sigler
Adrian Staeven
Diana Steel
Mary Beth Uhr

Wendy Weirich
Carol Wilson
Barry Wolfe
Lloyd and Norma Wygant

Contact Us

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Visit our website
www.wcasohio.org

WCAS Chapter Newsletter

Published 4 times per year in February, May, August and November by the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society.

www.wcasohio.org is the official Chapter Web Site.

WCAS Board Meetings are held at 6:30 pm prior to each program at Rocky River Nature Center. General public and WCAS members welcome.

President

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Liz Clingman, 440-799-1881

Gayle Albers

Stan Searles

Barry Wolfe

Mark Hofelich



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 and a window cling.

Check one:	1 or 2 people	Family	Organization
Dues	\$20	\$35	\$55
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

