



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Supporting bird surveys in the Rocky River Important Bird Area

Zoo Curator Walk is "For The Birds," 30 Miles From Hinckley to Lake Erie

Stan Searles, Curator of Ornithology at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will go on a bird walk on Saturday, May 26, 2007. He won't be pausing long to watch birds, though. Beginning at 6 a.m. Stan will walk the entire 30-mile length of the Rocky River Important Bird Area (IBA), from State and Ledge roads in the Metroparks Hinckley Reservation north to the mouth of the Rocky River at Lake Erie. Much of his walk will be in Cleveland Metroparks, specifically in Hinckley, Mill Stream Run, and Rocky River reservations. Stan expects to be at the Emerald Necklace Marina by about 4 or 5 p.m.

Searles's walk will raise funds to support ongoing scientific surveys in the Rocky River IBA. Sponsors who contribute \$100 or more will be able to walk with Stan and learn about bird conservation. This is the capstone event of a month-long birdathon held by Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society to raise funds and build awareness of the Rocky River IBA.

The scientific surveys will document how land use decisions affect bird populations along the East Branch of the Rocky River and on and surrounding land. Bird populations reflect the viability of the habitat for animals, plants and humans. The 2006 Rocky River IBA breeding bird survey documented 76 species of breeding birds. Many more are seen as migrants and visitors.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has adopted the Rocky River Important Bird Area. Research in the Rocky River Important Bird area is supported by Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Gund Foundation and dedicated volunteers.

Sponsors will be listed on the WCAS website and will receive a letter of acknowledgement. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Need more info? Contact Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, at 4310 Bush Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109 info@wcasohio.org or call Diane Sigler at 440-237-0816