



Stakeholders Hold Key to Vision 2020

By Tom Romito, President, WCAS

In my June message to *Feathered Flyer* readers, I posed the question as to whether or not the end of the five-year breeding bird survey means that interest in the IBA will go away. I said that in anticipation of the completion of our five-year study, WCAS has been conducting meetings with agencies in and around the Rocky River valley. These agencies, or stakeholders, have been working with us to construct a strategy called Vision 2020 that will determine what conservation projects will be going on in the IBA in ten years.

At our November 16 meeting, 28 people representing 15 organizations explored many areas including: land acquisition, conservation, and restoration; education and stewardship; partnerships; practices and policies; applied research; marketing the IBA. We recognized right away that we don't have enough volunteers to address all of these issues. As a result, we met again on April 28 to whittle down the list of areas to those we felt we could really have an impact on. We decided that our main areas of interest are land acquisition, conservation, and restoration and marketing the IBA.

So where do we go from here? A theme we developed when we explored the area of land acquisition, conservation, and restoration was the need to find out what like-minded organizations are doing and partner with them. For instance, the need to educate private landowners is a huge requirement. We can do this by partnering with municipal governments, neighborhood groups, and individual landowners themselves. Similar is the need to advocate for riparian ordinances that protect the watershed.

In the area of marketing the IBA,



we discovered a theme in conducting outreach activities to communities, schools, colleges, associations, and churches. By partnering with these entities, we can develop our "marketing case." We also discussed using such modern marketing tools as Facebook, and producing a video that we can put in the hands of our partners to sell Vision 2020.

As we were "drilling down" through these issues, we saw that it would take a small army of volunteers to accomplish anything. As a result, partnering as I have discussed in this article will be key to recruiting volunteers.

Please follow the development of Vision 2020 closely by reading this newsletter, attending WCAS meetings, and going on our monthly field trips. I believe that the core of our future volunteer group will be those who are faithful to the Audubon mission.

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2010 Field Trips

Saturday, August 14...7:00 AM...Ottawa NWR Visitor Center

Meet at 7 a.m. at **Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center**. We will travel from the Visitor Center to Tom Bartlett's shorebird banding area. We are starting early in order to see the best birds! Tom will decide where to band a bit closer to the date. Likely spots are Winous Point Conservancy or Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Following our field trip, we will join Dave Lewis and Laurie Boylan for a potluck picnic lunch. Everyone who meets us at 7 a.m. at ONWR will get a map to the banding area and to the picnic spot. Don't forget to bring food. Important! Chocolate Chip Cookies are much appreciated by Bob the chipmunk.

Directions: From Cleveland, take Rt. 2 past Sandusky and Port Clinton. Ottawa NWR is about 40-45 miles west of Sandusky. The entrance to ONWR is 2 miles west of Magee Marsh on the north side of Rt. 2.

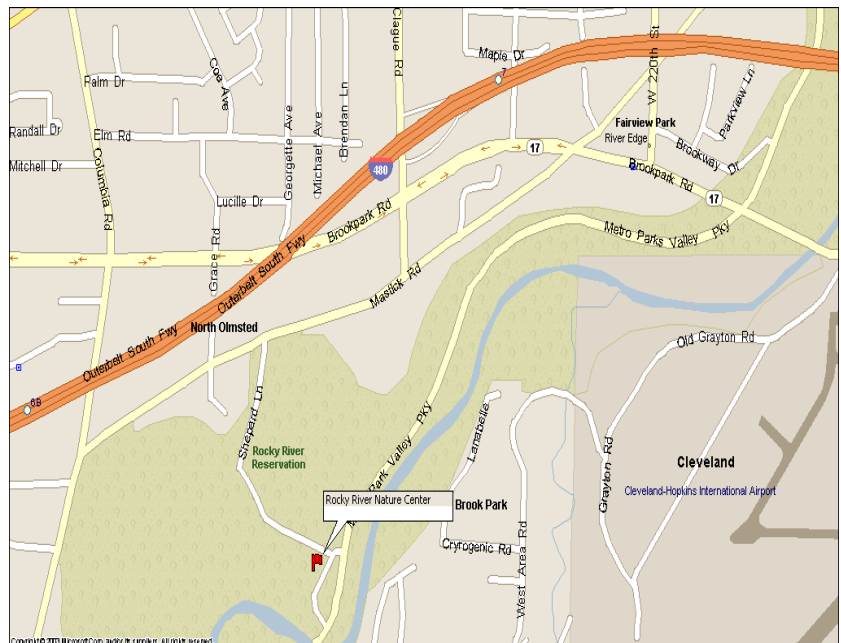
Alternative: Take the Ohio Turnpike I-80 west to Rt. 250 north. Take Rt. 250 north to Rt. 2. Take Rt. 2 west to Ottawa NWR.



Saturday, September 11...9:00 AM...Rocky River Important Bird Area

Join us at the **Rocky River Nature Center** for it's Monthly Morning with the Birds. The Rocky River Nature Center is a great spot for woodpeckers and other forest birds.

Directions: Take Shepard Lane off of Mastick Rd. in North Olmsted. Go down Shepard Lane hill to Valley Parkway. The Rocky River Nature Center is on the right at the intersection of Shepard Lane and Valley Parkway. For more detailed directions, please visit our website.

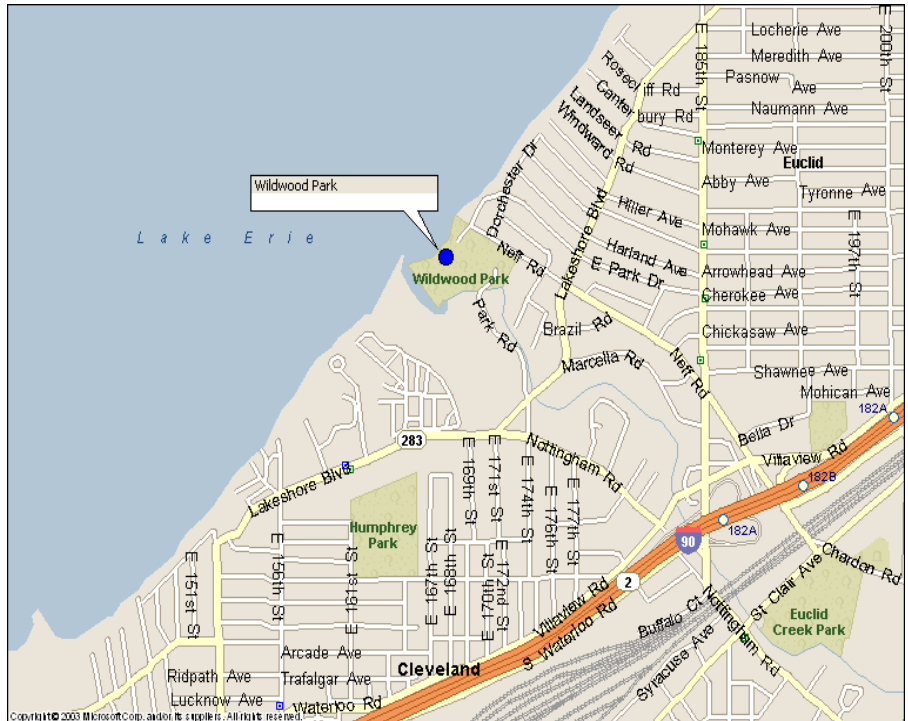


2010 Field Trips

Sunday, October 10...8:30 AM...Wildwood Park and Villa Angela

Wildwood and Villa Angela are part of Cleveland Lakefront State Park. Expect waterfowl on the lake, and migrating warblers in the woods and fields above the marina. Mary Anne Romito will be our leader.

Directions: Take the Shoreway (Rt. 2) to East 185 St. Go north on E. 185 to Lakeshore Blvd. Go west (left) on Lakeshore. Lakeshore curves, then passes over Euclid Creek. Watch on right for the driveway to the park, just after crossing Euclid Creek. Follow the park drive north to Lake Erie. Park by the creek.



Volunteers Wanted:

CELEBRATE URBAN BIRDS WITH WCAS AND THE PARMA SOUTH LIBRARY

Help ***Celebrate Urban Birds*** and help Western Cuyahoga Audubon get noticed! WCAS has been invited to have a display and informational table at the Parma South branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library on Saturday, September 25 from 1 to 4:30 PM. This is a perfect way to spread the good word about birds in an urban setting AND it is right in our membership area.

The event will have speakers as well as other organizations with informational displays. Friendly, smiling faces are needed to staff the table during the afternoon hours. We also would like that those staffing the WCAS table have knowledge of birds and knowledge of WCAS and our mission. We plan to have WCAS literature as well as information about birds in an suburban to urban area, such as the Parma neighborhoods. How about information on attracting birds to one's yard, plantings

for birds ... or just simply some of the birds that can be found in the area?

Please consider taking time to ***Celebrate Urban Birds*** with WCAS and the Parma South Library. Contact for information and if you would like to help.

Other Volunteer Opportunities:

WCAS could sure use a Hospitality Coordinator for the 2010-11 program year to do following:

- ___ Assistance with setting up refreshments for monthly meetings.
- ___ Supplying cookies or pastries (store-bought is fine and you will be reimbursed).
- ___ Getting others involved in case you are absent.

Please contact Nancy Howell at 216-231-4600 ext. 3225, or 440-891-1710 or nhowell@cmnh.org

WCAS Lecture Series for 2010

Our free 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). Guests are always welcome to come and learn about the Audubon mission.

**Tuesday, September 7, 2010
at 7:30 PM**



Ohio really is at the crossroads—east meets west, south meets north. Ecologically speaking, the Prairie meets the Allegheny Mountains meets the Northern Hardwood Hemlock Forest right in northeast Ohio. David Kriska, Biodiversity Coordinator from the Natural Areas Division of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will present images of, and share information on, the rare creatures and the rare habitats—bogs, fens, old growth forests, sand dunes and more, that make northeast Ohio unique in the program **"Protecting the Region's Rarest Habitats."**

**Tuesday, October 5, 2010
at 7:30 PM**



"In the Steps of Darwin – Birds and Other Wildlife of the Galapagos Islands"

Paul Barding visited the Galapagos Islands and experienced one of the most observed and studied ecosystems on Earth. From Darwin to biologists of the present day, the Galapagos continues to attract attention due to the unique wildlife on the different islands. How the plants and wildlife arrived and diversified on the many islands is a fascinating study of adaptation and survival.

Weeders In The Wild

**Saturday, August 7, 2010...1:00 to 3:00 PM
South Chagrin Arboretum, Cleve. Metroparks**

Please join us at the sixth annual "Cranberry Liberation Pull" as we remove invasive Buckthorn that is trying to crowd out the native Cranberry.

Directions: Take 480 east to 422 (near 271). Quickly exit at Miles Rd. Turn right (east) onto Miles. Go past Look About Lodge, turn right (south) on Sulphur Springs Dr. Turn right on Hawthorn and a quick left onto Arbor Lane. The Arboretum parking lot is on the left.

Education Outreach

Lifelong Learning With Audubon Adventures!

Audubon Adventures helps 3rd through 6th graders form positive attitudes about nature. The topics and themes covered by **Audubon Adventures** are important to Audubon's mission and supports educators utilizing the materials. An all-new four-part, series of **Audubon Adventures** for the 2010 – 2011 school year called, **Wildlife on the Move**, focuses on the amazing journeys and life cycles of different birds, Monarch butterfly (and other insects), whales and sea turtles. The key message throughout is that migratory species have special conservation needs. The information provided is a standards-based classroom curriculum and is rooted in elementary science, language arts, and social studies.

Audubon Adventures Classrooms receive all of this:

- * Audubon Adventures Resource Kit with four sets of student newsmagazines and a 48 page teacher's manual with background information and hands-on activities for inside and outside of the classroom.
- * *Pennies for the Planet* large classroom poster, teacher's guide and student handouts
- * "Nature Journaling for Everyone" guide provides helpful information, advice and techniques for starting and keeping a naturalist's journal.
- * Student assessment questions and answers that evaluate students' language arts and science skills.



* Information on how Audubon Adventures meet national and state learning standards.

* Opportunity to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February, 2011.

* Gift of Audubon membership and local Audubon chapter membership in the teacher's name.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has limited funds to provide **FREE** kits to schools (public, private, parochial or home-school). To spread the educational benefits even more consider sponsoring an **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** kit for the school's library or media center so many educators may benefit from this program. To order contact Nancy Howell at 440-891-1710 or 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or by e-mail at nhowell@cmnh.org

Contact Us

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*Visit our website
www.wcasohio.org*



WCAS Chapter Newsletter

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

President

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

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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Stan Searles

Gayle Albers

Thanks To All IBA UltraWalk Participants



Tom with representative from Dennis Kucinich's office and UltraWalkers © Tom Fishburn

Ultra Birders

Mary Anne Romito
Mary Lou Hura
Kit Birch

UltraWalk Pledges

Elaine	Marsh
Rob and Peg	Bobel
Nancy	Howell
Tom	Goellner
Juliet	DelRio
Penny	O'Connor
Page	Stephens
Terry & Joanne	Gorges
Andy	Jones
Dennis	Bjrch
Martha	Burrows
Craig	Caldwell
Chuck	Wade
John	Salaga
Leland	Barnes
Tim	Krynak
Rachel	Miller
Larua	Casey
Tammy	Shomo
Judy	Hardgrove
Ken & Carol	Bagger
Cathy	Thoryk
Sheila	Huest
Sandy	Schafer
Laura	Amendolagine
Frances	Chung
Joe	Buza
Jeannie	Brown
Casey	Martin
Jim	Cooper
Heidi	Spangler
Kym	Gopp
Terry	Joyce

UltraWalk Registrants

Stan	Searles
Tom	Romito
Lisa	DelRio
Annelise	DelRio
Janet	Jaeger
Stephen	Mather
Erin	Hardgrove
Meri	Hardgrove
Jason	Schafer
Anne	Jones
Sean	Jones
Tom	Robatin



Green Heron © Mary Anne Romito



Juvenile Peregrine Falcon at Hillard Rd Bridge © Mary Anne Romito

WCAS Members Participated In a Variety of Events

Environment Club, Emerson Middle School in Lakewood— Nancy Howell, Paula Lozano

NASA Earth Day—Diane Sigler , Laura Obloy, Nancy Brewer, Penny O'Connor

School Days at Edgewater—Dave LeGallee and son, and Geri Hannibal

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve—Terry and Joanne Gorges

Science Fair Judges—Dave LeGallee, Penny O'Connor, Nancy Howell, Gayle Albers

Science Olympiad—Dave LeGallee and Nancy Howell

International Migratory Bird Day at the Zoo—Barbara Warny, Penny O'Connor, Joanne and Terry Gorges,

2009/2010 Field Trip Leaders—Tim Fairweather, Gary Gerrone, Dave Graskemper, Dick and Jean Hoffman, JoAnn Kubicki, Josh Michalski, Joe Woyma, Scott Wright

National Audubon News

ARCTIC-BREEDING BIRDS WILL BE AMONG THE NEXT VICTIMS OF THE GULF OIL DISASTER

Audubon Press Release... Delta Willis, Senior Communications Manager

New York, NY, July 1, 2010 - For the next six months, beginning in early July, tens of millions of shorebirds, waterfowl and other migratory birds will land on oiled beaches, in sullied coastal wetlands and on tainted ocean waters. For some, the Gulf marks a rest stop, an opportunity to take a break and feed en route to more southern destinations; for others it will serve as home until next spring. But after flying hundreds or thousands of miles from nesting sites in the northern U.S., Canada, and the Arctic, many will soon face a far more perilous Gulf, where oil continues to spread uncontrolled and could contaminate new areas at any time.

"The Gulf of Mexico is like Grand Central Station for the birds of the Eastern United States and especially the Mississippi Flyway," said Audubon President [Frank Gill](#).

A substantial share of the birds that nest somewhere in the US or Canada pass through the Gulf during spring and fall migration and depend on healthy habitat to complete their journeys. "The impact of the Gulf disaster on migrating birds will be like a train derailment during rush hour," added Gill. "Not only will it affect the entire system, but its repercussions will be long-lasting. Enabling healthy bird populations to withstand the months and years before the Gulf is clean will require both a continuing emergency response and investments in long-term recovery."

What birds are at risk?

Ocean birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and waterfowl that rely on saltwater habitat are at highest risk. Semipalmated Sandpipers, an [Audubon Watchlist species](#), and Pectoral Sandpipers will be among the first to arrive, early in July. Both breed on tundra in the northernmost reaches of Canada and Alaska, and travel to Central and South America for the winter. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and other sandpipers are also early migrants. Some will complete their journeys in the Gulf; others will continue to wintering grounds further south, but all face potential peril from the spill. Its effects will be felt by



American Avocet



American White Pelican



Long-billed Curlew



Semipalmated Sandpiper



Lesser Yellowlegs

*All Pictures By
Bill Stripling,
Courtesy of Audubon*

multiple generations - adult birds typically arrive first, and are followed by first-year chicks that hatched and fledged on northern nesting grounds. Sadly, as these shorebirds feed on mudflats, they will encounter oil - and will both ingest it through their food and get it on their feathers. Unless they are captured, cleaned and relocated, many will die.

Birds that spend the largest part of their life cycle in the Gulf will face even greater peril. These include many species that are well-known in migratory stopping points or in breeding grounds further north. Among them are the Common Loon, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Red Knot, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Western Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher. As fall migration continues into November and December, waterfowl like Mallards and Snow Geese will also arrive in the Gulf.

What can be done?

"One of the most important things we can do is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the spill's impacts on birds and their habitat to form the foundation for full recovery plans," according to Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon.

Currently, Audubon's Coastal Bird Survey is training and deploying volunteers throughout the Gulf states to monitor bird populations and habitat conditions. The effort will be ongoing. "In addition," Butcher says, "this year's [Christmas Bird Count](#) will be more important than ever, giving us an early warning about what species may be in trouble as a result of the spill."

There is some good news as bird rescue and release efforts continue. Migrating and wintering birds can generally be more successfully relocated than those that are breeding or



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Fall Open House Tour of Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Save the date: **Saturday, September 25, 2010, 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM.** Experience the city of Cleveland's only nature preserve along the shore of Lake Erie (formerly known as Dike 14). You will have a chance to look for native Ohio plants, trees and animals.

The Environmental Education Collaborative installed an informational kiosk at Cleveland Lakefront State Park near the Preserve gate. Visit the kiosk to learn more about the history and plans for the site.

Directions:

Exit #177 from I-90. Parking is available at Gordon State Park. Entrances from North Marginal at E. 72 St., from North Marginal between E. 72 St. and MLK, and park office entrance from Lakeshore Boulevard east of MLK. Additional space at E. 55th State Park (Exit SR 2).

*Reminder: **Shade grown coffee** served and sold at all WCAS monthly meetings.
Shade the coffee, save the birds!

