



Ultrawalk-Ultrabird 2012 Wrap-Up

By Tom Romito, WCAS President

As we were walking up Ridge Road in Hinckley Township on May 26, I said to my three fellow Ultrawalkers, "Do you know what that mist down in that valley off to our right is?" They said they didn't, and I replied, "That's the East Branch of the Rocky River, and we're walking to bring attention to residents here that we all need to keep it clean!"

I explained that we were on high ground, hence the name Ridge Road, and storm water takes trash, waste, pesticides, and anything else in its path downhill into the river. "We want people who live on the private parcels between Hinckley and North Royalton, to consider selling their land to Cleveland Metroparks instead of developers when they decide to divest themselves of their property. That way their land can become part of the Emerald Necklace instead of more housing and shopping centers," I said.

WCAS board member Stan Searles and Jason Wark and Laura Amendolagine, Cleveland Metropark Zoo employees, and I were braving the 31-mile course from Hinckley Reservation to Emerald Necklace Marina in Lakewood on May 26, 2012 to raise funds for WCAS. This was the sixth annual Ultrawalk, which is the inspiration of Stan Searles.

Support Crew

Actually, we weren't alone during the adventure. Audubon member Vickie Searles leapfrogged ahead of them along the route in her vehicle to provide water, food items, and foot care. Audubon member Terry Gorges positioned the WCAS banner at strategic locations to bring the Ultrawalk to the attention of passersby. Twelve Audubon supporters joined the Ultrawalkers at Cleveland Metroparks Ranger Operations Headquarters in Fairview Park to walk the last five miles of the route.

Congressional Recognition

Pam Bobst, mayor of Rocky River, was on hand at Emerald Necklace Marina to greet the entire group when it completed the Ultrawalk at 5:30 p.m. Joining her was Mike Patterson, sched-

uler for Congressman Dennis Kucinich. Mike presented us with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for raising public awareness and expanding conservation efforts.

Donations & Pledges

During the months leading up to the Ultrawalk, we secured donations and pledges from friends, relatives, and associates for the miles we walked. The intent of the proceeds from this year's Ultrawalk is to defray the cost of publishing the final report of the five-year (2006-2010) breeding bird survey in the Rocky River IBA.

95 Bird Species

WCAS also wrapped up a great migration season with a three-day survey of the entire IBA called the Ultrabird. This was a companion fund-raiser to the Ultrawalk. Thank you to all the UltraBirders who came out to help! The best birds for this UltraBird were the new ones! We saw a female Mourning Warbler at South Quarry Picnic Area and a Gray-cheeked Thrush in the same parking lot. We had a Pine Warbler in Hinckley in the same area where we've had Magnolia Warbler in the past. We missed the Magnolia this year, but we had a singing White-throated Sparrow at Lagoon Picnic Area. Fantastic for late May! But we had more birders come out to join us. That was the best part.

(see Ultrawalk-Ultrabird, Page 7)

Inside this issue:

Field trips	page 2 & 3
Programs	Page 4
Carbon Offset Project	Page 4
Weeders In The Wild	Page 5
Join WCAS	Page 5
Ultra Wrap-Up	Page 6
Legacy Wildlife Stamp	Page 7
Contact Us	Page 7

Field Trips

Sunday, August 12, 8 AM
Shorebird Field trip

Meet at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, near Magee Marsh

Trip Leader: Ethan Kistler

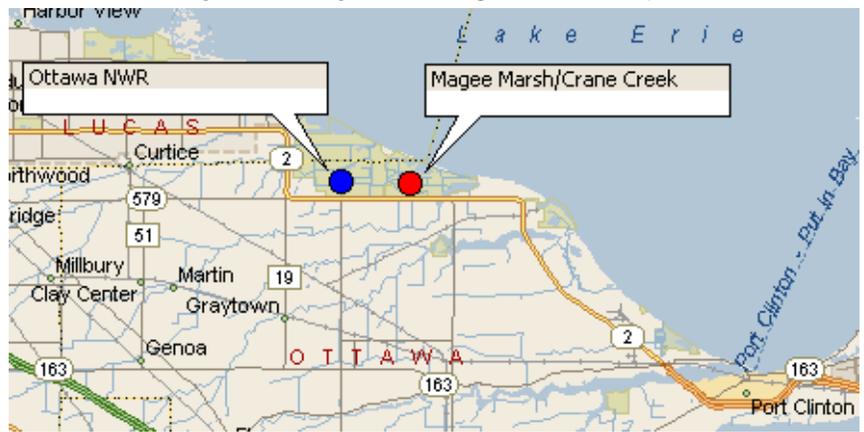
Shorebirds abound in early August. We will join Ethan Kistler, Education and Outreach Specialist for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) to see shorebirds in and around BSBO and the Ottawa National Refuge. Scopes are a real plus. Don't forget a hat, sunscreen and a water bottle. Bring lunch for a picnic after birding.

Carbon Offset: BSBO is about 90 miles from Cleveland, for 180 miles round trip. This trip will be part of our Carbon Offset project. A donation form is at <http://www.wcasohio.org/PDF%20files/CarbonOffset.pdf>. Based on mileage, birders are invited to add a few bucks to our Carbon Offset fund, benefiting habitat in the Rocky River Important Bird Area. Donations are totally voluntary. See Page 7 for an update on the program.

Directions to Black Swamp Bird

Observatory: From the Cleveland Area, take I-90 West to Route 2. Continue west on Route 2. Go past Sandusky and Port Clinton. About 17 miles west of Port Clinton, watch for the road to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on the right. The sign is small. Turn right, and watch for BSBO on the left.

Note: On Route 2, if you reach the visitor center for Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, you went too far.



Sunday, September 16, 8:30 AM

Wildwood / Villa Angela State Park, Cleveland Lakefront

Trip Leader: Nancy Anderson

Target Species: Migrant Fall Warblers

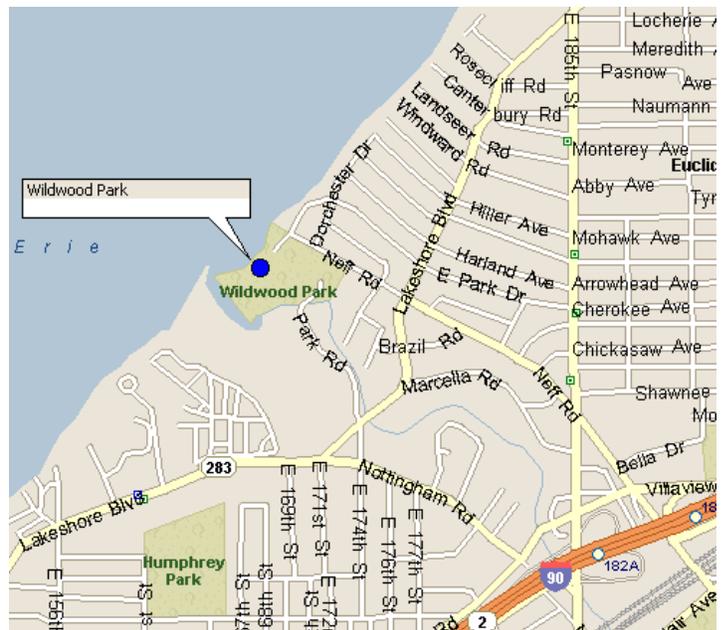
Wildwood / Villa Angela is on Lake Erie at the mouth of Euclid Creek. Varied habitats support a variety of resident birdlife. Fall migrants congregate here to feed and rest after a flight across the lake. It is not uncommon to find a dozen or more warbler species at this time of year. We will bird with Nancy Anderson, who birds here regularly and reports on Ohio-Birds.

Directions to Wildwood / Villa Angela: Take Cleveland Memorial Shoreway (Route 2) to East 185th Street.

Go North on East 185th Street 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 the bridge over Euclid Creek. Follow the park drive north to Lake Erie. Park by creek.

Note: Alternative directions are on the website.



Field Trips

Sunday, September 23, 8 AM

Bird Walk with Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, Bay Village

Trip Leaders: Amy LeMonds (LENSC), Terri Martincic, Marty and Rob Reynard (WCAS)
Target Species: Fall Migrants

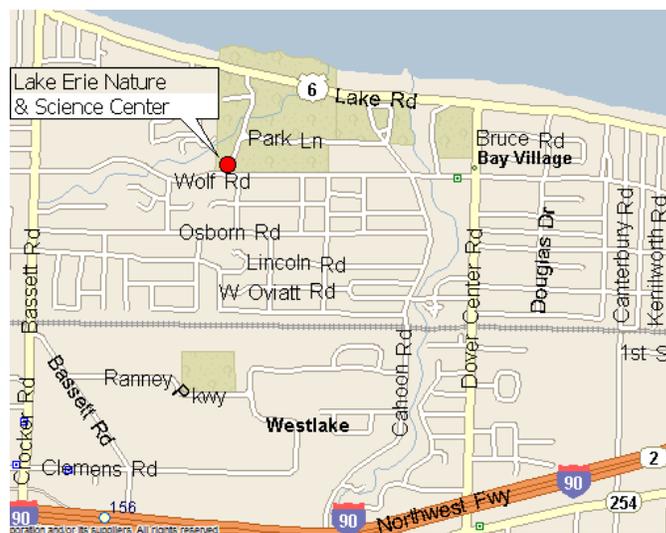
Warblers heading south for the winter will stop here on the south shores of Lake Erie to feed and rest. We will look for these and other migrants, as well as resident birdlife. Meet at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center and walk the trails to Huntington Beach. Following our walk, we will join LENS C's Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist Amy LeMonds for a live bird program.

Young birders welcome! One of our leaders for this event is active in the Ohio Young Birders Club, a dynamic group of birders ages 12 - 18. Learn more about OYBC at www.ohioyoungbirders.org.

Directions from the west: Via I-90 East, Exit 156 Crocker -Bassett Roads. Turn left on Crocker, which becomes Bassett at the railroad tracks. Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance is .7 miles on the left (north).

Directions from the east: Via I-90, Exit 159 Columbia Road North. Turn right on Columbia. Turn left on Wolf Road. Entrance is 1.9 miles on the right (north).

Directions from the south: Via I-480 east OR west, Exit 3, Stearns Road. North on Stearns (eastbound turn left; westbound turn right). Stearns becomes Crocker, then becomes Bassett at the railroad tracks. Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance is .7 miles on the left (north).



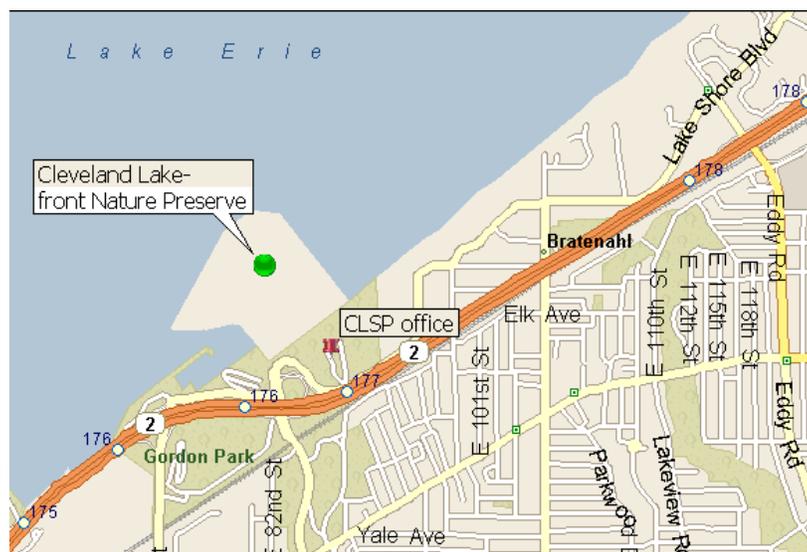
Saturday, October 13, 8 AM

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (formerly Dike 14)

Leader: Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.
Target Species: Fall Migrants

For our October field trip we will bird Cleveland's recently opened Lakefront Nature Preserve (a.k.a. Dike 14) with Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. Chuck has done a lot of birding at CLNP and taken beautiful bird and butterfly photos there. The preserve is located on an old dredge disposal site formerly known as Dike 14 and is adjacent to the East 72nd Street Marina in Cleveland. Be sure to park at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park office, not the E.72nd Street Marina parking lot. The part office is located at 8701 Lake Shore Blvd.

Directions: Via the Shoreway / I-90, take the Martin Luther King Drive exit. Turn north toward Lake Erie. Stay straight to go on Lake Shore Blvd. The office is on the left.



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.

August Field Trip & Weeders in the Wild Only! Go Birding!

Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 PM

The World of the House Sparrow

Science and natural history author Kim Todd introduces us to the world of the House Sparrow and human's perception of this species. Innocent, invader, lover and thief are just some of the terms used to describe the House Sparrow. In her program, "*Sparrow*" (also the name of her most recent book) Kim will explore the natural and cultural history of this beloved, reviled, and ubiquitous bird as well as discuss its decline.



Tuesday, October 2, 7:30 PM



Mentor Marsh

Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve is one of Ohio's unique natural areas of wetlands and upland forest. Nature is still changing the marsh, but so too is the careful management that has improved the opportunity for viewing open water areas and the wildlife using the Marsh as a home or a migratory stop. Mentor Marsh Naturalist, Becky Donaldson, will explain some of the ongoing challenges involved in the management and preservation of this coastal Ohio gem in the program, "*Mentor Marsh: Restoring the Green Ribbon*".

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 - \$140.48

Join WCAS as a Chapter Friend

By Tom Romito, WCAS President

It's time again to encourage all readers of *The Feathered Flyer* to board the train as a Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Friend. For people interested in connecting with nature, this is one of the best deals but best-kept secrets in Cleveland. Why? It's easy to join, but we have to continually get the word out to the public. Let's cut to the chase and tell you how to join: Go to http://www.wcasohio.org/join_wcas.htm or the insert in this newsletter, find the application form, then act!

So what's in it for you for your \$20 application fee? First, all of your dues stay with WCAS to support our programs, field trips, and conservation activities. These things are not costly, but they are not cost-free, and we need your help to keep them going. Second, you will receive a hard-copy version of *The Feathered Flyer* every three months in the U.S. mail so you can keep up with the news and calendar of our activities. If you're not computer friendly, the newsletter coming in your mail is a benefit and convenience for you. You'll also receive a name tag and WCAS window cling.

There are about 100 WCAS Friends in Greater Cleveland. I'm proud of everyone who supports us, comes to meetings, and gets involved in our conservation and public education activities.

Once again, to join please use the application form that has been inserted in this newsletter or (for those that are OK with computers,) the application form on the WCAS website. Directions are on the form.

Weeders in the Wild

**Join Western Cuyahoga Audubon as we go into nature
and restore biodiversity one plant at a time.**

**Saturday, August 4, 1:00 pm
Look About Lodge, Cleveland Metroparks
(Last One in 2012!)**

The woodland around Look About Lodge is dotted with Japanese barberry, an invasive plant that can grow from 2 - 8 feet high. Ages 14 to adult can bring work gloves and a shovel to help curtail the spread of this shrub.

Take I-480 east to Route 422 (near I-271). Exit at Miles Road (the exit comes up quickly!). Turn right (east) on Miles. Look About Lodge will be on the right.

Suggestions on Ways to Help Birds

Some suggestions you may want to consider to help our feathered friends -

1. Offer fresh water
 2. Use native plants to provide food and shelter
 3. Have a brush pile
 4. Let dead trees stand if practical.
 5. Keep pesticides to a minimum
 6. Cover large expanses of glass with a screen, or pull a white curtain
 7. Pet cats should stay inside
 8. Work with local land conservancies or park districts to preserve land for habitat.
 9. Keep on top of local and national conservation issues, and communicate your views to your legislators
 10. Join WCAS!
-

Want to be a WCAS Board Member?

Remember 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

Most recent

Rich Caja

Last 6 months

Terry Hogan

Mary Lou McGuire

Barbara Miske

Dr. Barbara Shagawat



Volunteer Page

Do You know Any of these UltraBird or UltraWalk Participants?

If so, you might ask them why they did it and will they do it again?

Thank you to the following:

UltraBirders

Kit Birch
Bill Deininger
Mary Lou Hura
Joanne Gorges

Terry Gorges
Penny O'Connor
Mike Pasek
Rayka Petkova

Ryan Pulis
Mary Anne Romito
Tom Romito
Eileen Zimlich

UltraWalkers & 5 Mile Walkers

Gayle Albers
Jennie DeChant
Mark Hofelich

Ellen Horton
Christopher, Sophia & Jonah Ku-
har

Tom Romito
Stan Searles
Laura Amendolagine

Park Ops, Emerald Necklace and Support Volunteers

Liz Clingman
Joanne Gorges
Terry Gorges

Mark Hofelich
Mary Lou Hura
Mike Pasek

Vicki Searles
Barry Wolfe

Walk for Salvation

Thank you to those who participated in the Walk for Salvation on the Near West Side of Cleveland on Saturday, July 14. We also were interviewed by WTAM 1100 who was present at the event. WCAS people included: Tom Romito, Mary Anne Romito, Nancy Howell, Stan Searles and Vickie Searles.

Thank You, Field Trip Leaders

Our fantastic volunteer field trip leaders showed us more than 140 different bird species during our bird walks in 2011-2012. We went to more than two dozen different birding hotspots, including the Ultrabird and the Christmas Bird Count.

Christine Cain
Craig Caldwell
Tim Colborn
Bill Deininger

Tim Fairweather
Nancy Howell
Rich Kassouf
Ethan Kistler
JoAnn Kubicki

Gabe Leidy
Terri Martincic
Mary Anne Romito
Jeanne Williams

Maybe a little premature, but... Christmas Bird Count 2012

For those of you who like to plan way ahead, Christmas Bird Count 2012 is scheduled for Sunday, December 30. Details will be announced at a later date. Everyone from beginners to very experienced birder are invited join in the count, as well as the post count festivities. Mark your calendar!

Cuyahoga Fairground Wind Turbine Survey

WCAS is planning to conduct a survey of the consequences of large wind turbines to wildlife and particularly to bats at the new turbine in Berea. Tom Romito is exploring how this is accomplished while abiding by federal, state and county protocols. Once this is established, volunteers will be needed. The current plan is to begin no later than April, 2013, although a preliminary study may start late this year.



UltraWalkers joined by 5 milers © Terry Gorges

(Ultrawalk/
Ultrabird, cont'd
From Page 1)

To see the list of birds and great photographs of both the Ultrabird and Ultrawalk, visit the website, www.wcasohio.org and click on the Pictures and Reports navigation button.



A Bald Eagle with chick in the Rocky River IBA © Mary Anne Romito.

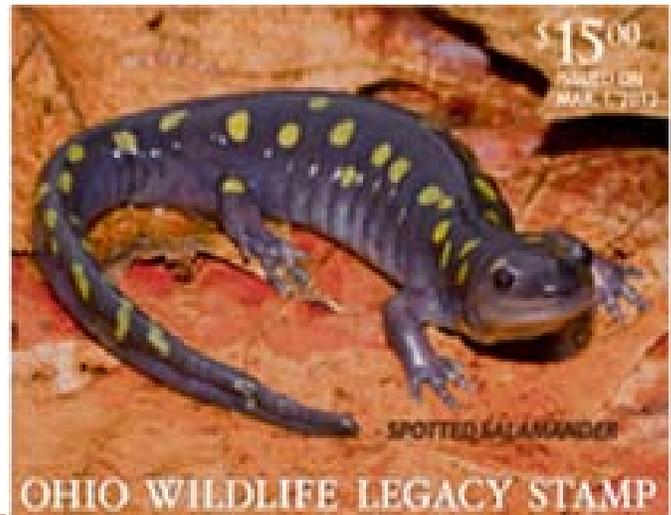
Lake Erie Birding Trail

Did you know that the shores of Lake Erie offer the opportunity to see more than 400 species of birds? The Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources has developed the Lake Erie Birding Trail, a string of prime birding locations along the 312-mile Ohio Lake Erie shore and immediate environs. The Cleveland area loop includes 24 parks and preserves. The website for the trail includes directions to the various sites, bird highlights and checklists. Check it out at: ohiodnr.com/Home/LakeErieBirdTrailIndex/

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



Contact Us

**WESTERN CUYAHOGA
AUDUBON SOCIETY**
4310 Bush Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109
Phone: 216-741-2352
Fax: 216-741-1879
Email: info@wcasohio.org

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

President

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

Treasurer

Nancy Howell, 440-891-1710

Newsletter Editor

Kurt Miske, 440-835-6700

Webmaster

Mary Anne Romito, 216-741-2352

Field Trip Coordinator

Penny O'Connor, 216-676-4859

Directors at Large

Liz Clingman, 440-799-1881

Gayle Albers

Stan Searles

Barry Wolfe

Mark Hofelich



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mission Statement

The mission of WCAS is to educate the public about conservation of the natural world through member involvement in chapter activities and community outreach.

What are we about?

What we are really about is enjoying, experiencing and learning about nature. We offer many opportunities to participate in field trips, volunteer activities and educational programs while meeting other people with similar interests and values. We conduct bird walks, teach bird identification and participate in the Annual Christmas Bird Count and Audubon Spring Bird Census. But that's only a small part of what we're about. When you think of WCAS, think of:

- Birds
- Butterflies, Bees and Dragonflies
- Deer, Chipmunks, Squirrels & Raccoons
- Photography and Nature Video
- Picnics, Guided Walks, Naturalists, Field Trips
- Gardening, Backyard Habitats & Plant Sales
- Education, Conservation efforts & Legislation advocacy
- Children, Families, Seniors & Friends
- The Cleveland Metroparks our various local county Metroparks, the CVNP, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History & The Cleveland Zoo

Our members range from experienced naturalists to first time explorers. What binds us is our love of nature in all seasons. Join us in enjoying, supporting & experiencing all of the nature Cleveland has to offer.

