

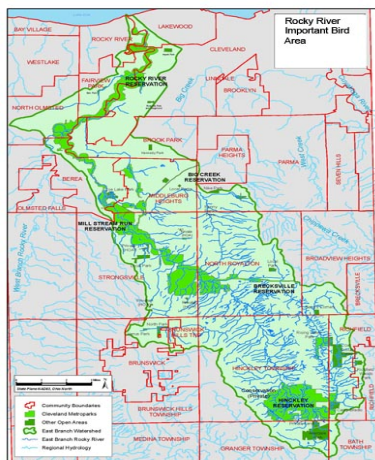


Citizen Science for 2012

More Bird Surveys!

by Kit Birch

Good news for all of us addicted to observing and counting birds! Terry Robison, Ph.D., Manager of Field Research at Cleveland Metroparks, has asked WCAS to once again monitor field points. He stated, "The goal of the program would be to accurately assess the status of breeding bird populations in forested habitats in the Rocky River Valley". We will basically be using the same methods that we did for the Forest Breeding Bird Survey of 2005-2010. There were about 66 total points surveyed in the past, but the number may be cut to about 45 for this next survey. Once again, each point count will be done with distance estimation 3 times in each of 3 distinct time periods between May 25 and July 15. Some of the specific objectives are to document rare species and the prevalence of woodpeckers (which are of special interest because of the recent infestations of emerald ash borer). Terry hopes we can complete this survey once every 2 to 3 years for the next 10 years.



Other Cleveland Metroparks projects are documenting the environmental and land-use practices that may affect wildlife and plant populations. Together we can communicate that information in an effective manner to public and private land owners, public decision-makers, and other stakeholders within the region.

Christmas Bird Count

by Nancy Howell

"Citizen science" projects and programs seem to be the buzz with regular citizens, like you and I, observing nature and recording information via websites. Believe it or not one "citizen science" project has been ongoing for over 100 years: the Christmas Bird Count. Western Cuyahoga Audubon's Christmas Bird Count will take place this year on **Friday, December 30**. More information about the range of our count circle and how to participate is located on our website, www.wcasohio.org. Look for the December field trip and click on that.

ANYONE can participate, that is the beauty of citizen science and the Christmas Bird Count, the more eyes out in there, the better. Your backyard, the streets in your neighborhood, a park or greenspace or join one of the many groups going out further afield. Can you watch your bird feeder? Absolutely! The only thing is that where you spend the time birding that day must be in our count circle. You can be out a couple of hours or all day ... again another GREAT part of the event.

See P. 2 for more information and map of count area.

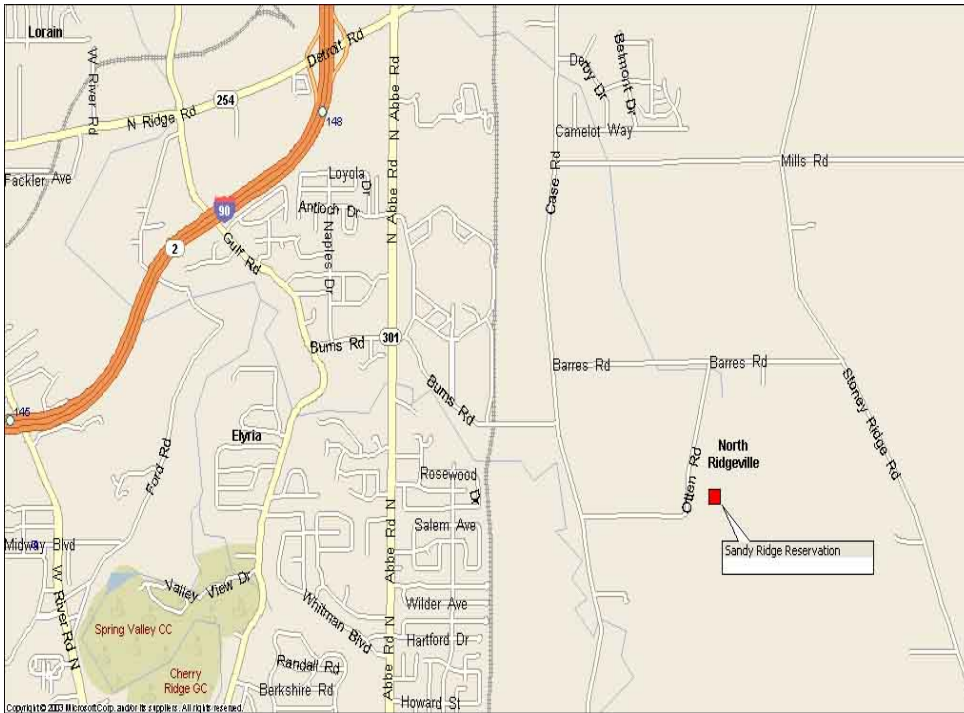
Please see P. 6 for more Citizen Science News by Gayle Albers

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Field Trips

Saturday, November 12, 2011...9:00 AM...Sandy Ridge Reservation



Our field trip leaders will be Tim Fairweather and Josh Michalski as we explore this beautiful wetland to look for waterfowl.

Directions: From the Greater Cleveland area take I-90 to the Rt.254 exit, left on Rt. 254 to Rt. 301, right on Rt. 301 past Lorain Community College, left on Burns Rd., right on Case Rd., left on Otten Rd to Sandy Ridge Reservation.

Or take I-480 to Clague Rd, turn right (north), on Clague to Center Ridge Rd. (Rt. 20), turn left or west on Center Ridge to Case Rd., turn right on Case Rd., then right on Otten Rd. to Sandy Ridge Reservation.

Friday, December 30, 2011...Christmas Bird Count

December 30 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: nhowell@cmnh.org



Field Trips

2011 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-to-Lake Trail
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.



Saturday, January 28, 2012...4:00 pm...Lake Abram

We will visit the Cleveland Metroparks **Lake-to-Lake Trail** at Lake Abram, Berea, to look for owls and roosting flocks of winter residents. Terri Martincic will be our leader and we will bird from 4 pm until past dusk in order to find owls.

Directions:

We will meet at the Lake Abram/ Eastland Rd. end of the trail. Take I-71 and exit at Bagley Rd. (from the north, turn right; from the south, turn left). Go past Southwest General Hospital to Eastland Rd. Turn right on Eastland Rd. and Lake Abram parking will be on the right.



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 1, 2011 at 7:30 PM



"From Basketball to Bobolinks: The Real Miracle of Richfield". As the home of the Cleveland Cavaliers and a rock-and-roll concert hall, the Richfield Coliseum stood as a regional landmark for decades. Now that same site is an exceptional landmark for different reasons. The sounds of crowds cheering and guitars wailing have given way to songs of bobolinks, meadowlarks and other grassland birds. Dr. Lisa Petit of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park will share the story of a remarkable transformation from concrete and asphalt to a high quality natural resource in northeastern Ohio.

Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:30 PM Meeting, 6:30 PM Potluck Dinner



Western Cuyahoga Audubon's annual Potluck Dinner at 6:30 PM

Please remember to bring your own place setting and a side dish or dessert if you are attending the dinner; 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. Nature-related items are preferred.



7:30 PM Program

Enjoy the beauty of the American southwest in the photographic program, *"A Naturalist's Perspective of the Southwest"*, by writer, photographer and naturalist David Dvorak Jr. Along with the beautiful scenery, the flora and fauna of the area (especially birds), will be highlighted.



Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:30 PM

Climate change is a subject that has become controversial and highly political, but the science behind climate change is increasingly evident. Dr. Eric Schreiber will present a program entitled **"Global Warming, an Emergency in Slow Motion"**. This presentation looks at the evidence of rapidly changing climate, its impact in various parts of the world, and solutions that can help slow the process.



Member News

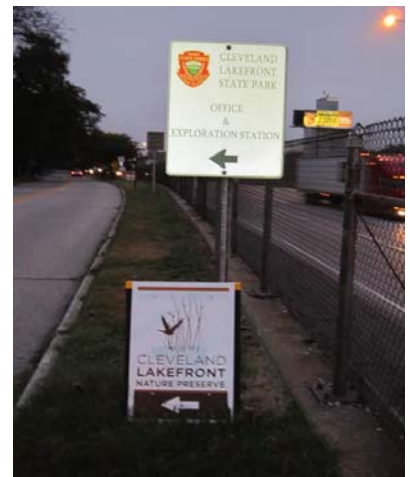
Thanks to Our Wonderful WCAS Volunteers

by Nancy Howell

The Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Open House on Saturday, September 24 was a spectacular weather day ... just perfect for being outdoors. Visitors to the Nature Preserve were able to see nature beginning to prepare for autumn. Monarch butterflies as well as many birds were on the move. Fall wildflowers were in bloom and just a hint of color in the trees.

Thanks go out to Tom Romito for assisting visitors

in finding their route on the trail, and pointing out many wonderful parts of nature. Craig Caldwell, Tim Colborn, Dave Graskemper and Bill Deininger were all bird walk leaders and 53 species were tallied that day. One of the best sightings was a Peregrine Falcon which caught its prey in mid air ... someone identified the Peregrine's lunch as a Chimney Swift. How cool.



Green Earth Jamboree

The Cleveland Natural History Museum recently hosted the third Green Earth Jamboree event where individuals and families could become involved with local conservation organizations or support green initiatives to preserve our natural resources.

WCAS was represented by the following dedicated volunteers:



Jan Holkenborg
Kathleen Tiburzi

Carol Wilson
Earl Peck

Welcome New Members



Eileen Cernea
Dale Gaul
Tammy Gibson
Rosemary and Walt Halun
John and Susan Hric
Johanna Rakevich
Phyllis Rakevich

Bob Ramsey
LaVerne Sestito
Beverly Stamp
Tracey Bennett
Marianne Wagner



More Citizen Science News

Nesting Success at the Zoo!

by Gayle Albers

Specially trained and certified volunteers—also known as citizen scientists—helped to monitor 24 newly constructed bird nest boxes at the Zoo this summer. Rick Ryan, a Boy Scout with Troop No. 777, earned his Eagle Scout wings by partnering with Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society and the Zoo to build nest boxes for the project this past spring. Trained volunteers monitored the nests weekly from June through August using NestWatch, a proven monitoring protocol developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Several of the Zoo's nest boxes provided homes to cavity nesting birds like tree swallows, wrens, and house sparrows. The information volunteers collected as part of the Zoo's nest box project adds to a national avian database that helps biologists, natural resource managers and conservationists make informed decisions about wildlife management. Scientists are also interested in learning more about how climate change impacts bird behavior, such as earlier egg laying and migration. By participating in broad scale, long-term wildlife monitoring, we can better understand bird ecology. Plus, citizen science is a fun way to help Ohio's wildlife! Learn more about NestWatch at <http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nest/home/index>.

Stay tweeted: Volunteer opportunities to monitor nest boxes at the Zoo will be available in the spring of 2012. If you have questions, please contact Gayle Albers, Regional Conservation Coordinator, at gla@clevelandmetroparks.com.



Contact Us

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www.wcasohio.org*



WCAS Chapter Newsletter

Published 4 times per year in
January, April, July and October
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.

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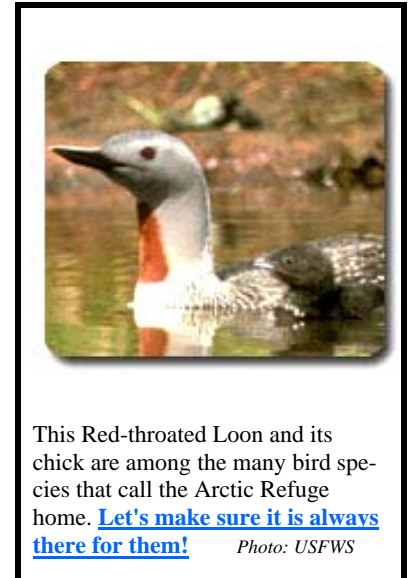
Protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

[Seize this unprecedented opportunity](#) to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by asking the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to recommend Wilderness designation in the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) being prepared for the refuge. The 50-year-old Arctic Refuge is the only National Wildlife Refuge established specifically to preserve wilderness values. Its Coastal Plain is a vital part of the larger Arctic ecosystem, home to some of America's iconic wildlife species—including **wolves, polar bears, grizzly bears, muskoxen, and caribou**. In addition, **180 migratory bird species from six continents** depend on the Arctic Refuge.

The USFWS recently released a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for public input, which lays out the conservation future of this spectacular wildlife refuge. **This plan is the first critical step toward achieving permanent protection for the Coastal Plain.** Some places are too special to drill, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of them.

You can respond to this Audubon Advisory at www.audubon.org. Click on "Take Action" button and follow directions for submitting your opinion. You can also send a letter to the following:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Interior Building—Room 3156;
1849 C Street, NW; Washington, DC 20240



Urge Congress to Keep Clean Air Act Strong

Wasting no time, industry polluters and their allies in Congress have already introduced a number of bills in both the House and Senate to weaken the Clean Air Act and keep EPA from doing its job—protecting the public health and the environment. In fact, there are calls by some members of congress to dismantle EPA completely!

The Clean Air Act is one of our keystone laws and speaks to our core values of conservation and stewardship. Keeping our Clean Air Act strong is one of our highest priorities, and we must defend it and keep it strong. Congress needs to hear that the American people will not stand by while the Clean Air Act is gutted and EPA's hands are tied.

Send the following sample letter, or edit it with your own words to let your House member and two Senators know why keeping the Clean Air Act strong is important to you.

*House Office Building; Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 224-3121*

*Senate Office Building; Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3121*

Dear Decision Maker,

I urge you to oppose any "dirty air act" proposals that would roll back the Clean Air Act's safeguards, allowing corporate polluters to fill our skies with dangerous toxics. For four decades, the Environmental Protection Agency has used the Clean Air Act to protect the health of millions of Americans including our children, our seniors, and the most vulnerable among us from dozens of dangerous air pollutants. From lead to ozone, the Clean Air Act has worked to reduce threats to our health and the environment.

But more remains to be done. Mercury, soot, smog, carbon dioxide, and other dangerous pollutants continue to threaten public health and the environment. We cannot allow corporate polluters to block strong safeguards that would protect our health and quality of life. It makes no sense to tie EPA's hands as it works to clean up life-threatening pollution. Again, I urge you to oppose any legislation, such as proposals offered by Congressman Upton in the House and Senators Barrasso and Rockefeller in the Senate, that would weaken the Clean Air Act and prevent EPA from doing its job to protect the public welfare and the environment.

*Sincerely,
Your Name*



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

Organization
\$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

