



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

4310 Bush Ave
Cleveland, Ohio 44109
Telephone: 216-741-2352
Website: www.wcasohio.org

May 30, 2006

Dear Observer:

I am writing to thank you for qualifying as and volunteering to be an observer for Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's Important Bird Area survey this year. We will officially begin the survey on June 1, and the enclosed materials will enable you to conduct your point counts.

The maps in the packet show the points I have assigned to you for the area you said you wanted to monitor. I have also provided you with written directions to each point. Also included is a list of people who volunteered to be recorders in the area you will be monitoring. I ask that you call them and arrange for someone to accompany you each time you go out to monitor points. Other materials include a clip board and pencil for the recorder, a parking permit, a name badge, the survey form, and a compass. Please sign and return to me the signature sheet for the compass. I have a GPS unit for you to use if you want to use one. If you want to use a GPS, I will teach you at your request. Please contact me if you need help using the compass, as well.

The protocols for monitoring are as follows: Monitor between dawn and 10:30 a.m. Do not monitor in the rain or very windy conditions. Monitor each point for ten minutes, scanning and listening from a stationary position for breeding birds. Note birds within a 25-meter radius, between 25 to 50 meters, and beyond 50 meters. Ensure that your recorder knows how to record your observations. Only converse with your recorder to the extent that you need to communicate what you see and hear. Conduct other conversations with your recorder either before or after the ten-minute observation period. Allow six days between visits to your points. Wearing sturdy waterproof boots is recommended. Always have a watch with you. Send your data sheets in weekly by U.S. Mail to Diane Sigler, 9465 West 130th St., North Royalton, OH 44133. Carry a cell phone (if you have one) with you in case of emergency.

On the WCAS website (www.wcasohio.org), you will find the directions, maps, and survey form for your use in obtaining more copies. The following people are available to help you if you have any questions or problems:

Tom Romito, IBA Chairperson, (216) 741-2352, tomromito@ameritech.net
Diane Sigler, IBA Coordinator, (440) 237-0816, eroc10@msn.com
Dan Petit, Chief of Natural Resources for Cleveland Metroparks, (216) 351-6300, drp@clevelandmetroparks.com.

In case of emergency, call the Cleveland Metroparks ranger station (440) 331-5530.

Sincerely,

Tom Romito

Enclosures