



# THE CERULEAN

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Quarterly Newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society: *Ohio's Birding Network*

## Our Second Annual Conference

The last weekend of April 2006 provided perfect weather for the Ohio Ornithological Society's second annual conference, held at Shawnee Lodge in Shawnee State Forest near Portsmouth, Ohio. Nearly 250 people gathered for field trips, an informative forum, evening programs, and endless networking and socializing opportunities. But most of all the focus was on birds. Migrating warblers, along with resident species, provided an attraction for this diverse group dedicated to the study, preservation, and conservation of Ohio's birds.

The weekend event started with a Friday afternoon check-in at Shawnee Lodge, where friendly volunteers greeted people at the front door. Jen Sauter's efforts to organize a top-notch event were clearly evident. From the beautiful table arrangements to the bus trips, every element of the conference had been planned well ahead. A big "thanks" also goes to the conference committee and volunteers. Shawnee State Park employees, especially Kevin Bradbury and State Forest manager Ben Hamilton, both deserve praise for working with OOS to make the 63,000 acres of woodlands available for our adventures.

The evening programs were informative as well as thought-provoking. Friday evening's speaker was Phillip Hoose, the widely acclaimed author of books, essays, stories, songs, and articles, including the award-winning *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird*.

Saturday, Kenn Kaufman, considered a legend among birders, presented a very moving story to the group. Kenn is field editor for *Audubon* magazine and a regular contributor to numerous birding periodicals. He has also authored a series of field guides. Bill Thompson III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest* and other works and author of numerous books and articles, kept the eve-



**Birding 101 with Dan Sanders and Hugh Rose - OOS Annual Conference**  
Photo by Jen Sauter

ning rolling along as master of ceremonies, keeping the audience in stitches with everything from guitar ballads to evangelical bird listings. Our energetic OOS President, and author in his own right, Jim McCormac presented several awards and acknowledgments, including recognizing Dan Sanders for finding 715 North American bird species during his 2005 Big Year. Both memorable nights were capped off with nocturnal outings and more camaraderie.

Day trips covered the gamut from snakes, salamanders, spiders, butterflies, moths, trees and the ever-popular birding at all levels and abilities, from birding 101 to bird songs. Our knowledgeable volunteer leaders made the trips highly educational as well as enjoyable. There were experts in all areas of natural history, reptiles, botany, dendrology, lepidoptera, and some very well-versed birders! By Sunday afternoon many species of warblers were recorded, rattlesnakes were witnessed, endangered salamanders sighted and botanical treasures spotted far and wide. Thanks to everyone who gathered in the big woods of southern Ohio for another fabulous event. Hope to see you next year!

--Cheryl Harner, *Crestline*

## Sparrow Symposium

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, our first sparrow symposium. This fascinating group of birds generates an enormous amount of interest among birders, and this event should be a wonderfully educational and entertaining day.

There will be several talks on various aspects of sparrow identification and natural history in the morning, at the fabulous Painesville Township Park ballroom. After lunch, we'll head out on special field trips to some of the prime sparrow migrant traps along Lake Erie. This is a peak time for Nelson's Sharp-tailed and Le Conte's sparrows, as well as most of the more common species.

Kenn Kaufman will be our keynote speaker that evening at the beautiful Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Watch for details and registration information very soon on the OOS website and elsewhere. We thank our partners the Kirtland Bird Club and Black Swamp Bird Observatory for making this event possible.



**Watching a rattlesnake at the OOS Annual Conference**  
Photo by Jim McCormac

# THE CERULEAN

THE CERULEAN is the official newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS). THE CERULEAN is published four times a year. It contains timely information regarding upcoming field trips and meetings, recent bird sightings and current hot spots, trip reports, as well as other pertinent birding information. A subscription to THE CERULEAN is included among the benefits of the OOS. Members of the OOS are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photographs, drawings, and other birding related information to the newsletter. Seasonal deadlines for contributions to THE CERULEAN are as follows:

- Spring: 1 March
- Summer: 1 June
- Fall: 1 September
- Winter: 1 December

Send contributions for the newsletter to [cerulean@ohiobirds.org](mailto:cerulean@ohiobirds.org), or by regular mail to THE CERULEAN, c/o OOS, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214. For more information see the Publications page on the OOS web site at [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org). Because the newsletter is sent as bulk mail, subscribers should remember that the Post Office will not forward this newsletter to a new address. Please notify the Editor promptly if you move.

**Design Manager--Delores Cole, Editor--Su Snyder.**

## A Conversation on Conservation: Part II

Imagine a time when self-sufficient men lived off the land, free of bureaucratic interference and obligations to anyone but a few like-minded neighbors, enforcing order and feeding their womenfolk and children with their guns. Those bygone days in America—and brief was their passage in the few places they ever existed—were, we know now, clouded by delusions—among them delusions that wild country stretched forever beyond the horizon, that the immense flocks of birds could never be diminished, and the land belonged to pioneers for any profit or enjoyment they might choose during their short span on earth.

At great cost we have learned how blind we were, especially in Ohio, where we now rank among the bottom five states in the percentage of remaining wetlands, and land in public hands overall. Our few natural lands are managed mostly with human profit or entertainment in mind rather than the full spectrum of native flora and fauna. Because the taxes and fees that saved them have come largely from consumptive users, they are managed primarily for timber, minerals, and game, and while conceivably there are worse uses for land, priorities such as these are skewed and far from ideal.

Ohioans must recognize that commercial and sport interests are not the only constituents of wild lands. Non-game animals and plants of no commercial value are biologically necessary and of great potential interest to far more citizens, and while these citizens do not remove these riches—or perhaps even know of them—they nonetheless must help pay for their restoration and protection. Is not wild country for wild things a common good, a shared heritage from which we all benefit even if we do not use or profit from it? Does it make sense to sustain park and refuge land with user fees alone? Isn't the wild outdoors a universal benefit like clean air and water, fire protection, schools, a legal system? We don't assess fees for dialing 911, or charge by the book for library borrowing. Criminals and the law-abiding alike pay taxes for police, and the childless

pitch in for schools, because public safety and educated youth are goods we hold in common as a society. We pay for common wealth with taxes, and taxes are the price of civilization. Everyone in a civilized society—even the indifferent, and not just the hunters and the birders—must protect wild life.

One of the uses of government is regulating human self-interest. Greed is a mighty motivator, and we must govern the destruction greed can bring. After the excesses of the nineteenth century, when precious land was given away for pennies to speculators and corporations interested only in profit, today government must buy land—stripped of its original natural features—back in order to take it out of the marketplace, so that wiser, more universal, and less selfish interests—nature itself, for example—will govern its use. Direct user fees—like those imposed on hunters, and those often proposed for birders and other "interest groups"—have proved inadequate. Fees on exploiters keep decisions in the marketplace, which is exactly where these lands got lost and despoiled in the first place. We cannot treat wild things as we do products, subject to the whims of fancy and popularity and entertainment value. We need dedicated taxes imposed on all citizens, because we all benefit from proper stewardship of our shared natural legacy.

Can we pass an Ohio tax devoting pennies a day to the reacquisition of wild lands? A ¼% sales or income tax would provide about \$20 million every year for the purpose. For decades, the state of Missouri has imposed a 1/8% sales tax for conservation lands and a 1/10% tax for parks and water management. Missouri voters have regularly renewed these taxes by generous margins, and I think Ohioans will too.

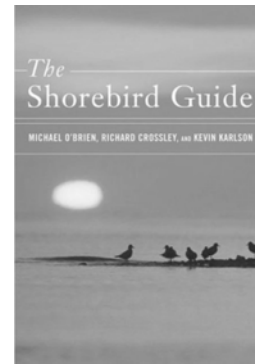
—Bill Whan, Columbus

## Book Review—The Shorebird Guide

Michael O'Brien, Richard Crossley, and Kevin Karlson, 2006. *The Shorebird Guide*. Houghton Mifflin. 477 pages. 870 color photos. Index. \$24.95

There's something about shorebirds that makes it more difficult to correctly identify an unknown bird the longer it stays in view and the closer it is to the observer. In such instances, it's not always helpful, in fact it might even be more of a hindrance, to have a field guide to flip through, comparing plumage details, bill lengths, calls, etc., as described or depicted in the plates and photos, to the bird "at hand." *The Shorebird Guide* seeks to simplify—as much as possible—shorebird identification by focusing on what the authors call a "holistic style of identification." This approach is sometimes called "jizz," shorthand for "general impression of size and shape." Rather than a "plumage first" approach, the authors argue that birders should start by looking at "relative size, structure, behavior and voice" of a species as first steps in the identification process. Unlike plumage, the authors note, size, structure, behavior, and voice are stable characteristics.

The format of the ID section of *The Shorebird Guide* is consistent for each species: first an "impression" photo, followed by a series of photos showing juveniles, then subadults, and finally adults. These photos are an interesting mix of standard field guide fare: wildlife "pinup-style" pictures, as well as a number of rather techni-



cally bad photos, which simulate some of the views we get of shorebirds in the field—too far away, blurry or dimly overly lit, birds hiding behind vegetation. There are also quizzes scattered throughout the book—pick out the lone non-breeding plumaged Western Sandpiper in a photo filled with non-breeding Dunlins, etc. Quiz answers are in the appendix. I've found the few quizzes I've taken so far to be humbling. It's revealing to try to identify birds out of familiar seasonal and geographical context, and I think the quiz photos simulate the sense that a birder might feel when birding an area far from home and dealing with a mix of familiar and unfamiliar species. Instead of ransacking the brain for plumage details—those subtle and ever-changing and variable finer points—the authors would have us look at the bigger, less variable, picture first.

This all poses the question “does the holistic approach to shorebird ID work as advertised?” For shorebird experts and people who think they are shorebird experts, O'Brien, Crossley, and Karlson might not have much new to say. But it's possible that by investing some time studying *The Shorebird Guide*, less experienced (as well as more modest) birders could well learn a lot that would be beneficial in the field.

There's also an emphasis on conservation, and the creation and preservation of habitats in the work—not so much in the ID section, though there's a little there, but in the species accounts and introductory material. *The Shorebird Guide* is an interesting book, and we'll see in time how well it prepares birders for the field and whether or not the holistic approach to birding is embraced by the birding community at large. —Mike Busam, West Chester

## Site Highlight

*Editor's Note: This new “Site Highlight” column will feature a closer look at some of Ohio's superb birding sites. “Birding the Sand Country” is first in a two-part series highlighting birding hotspots in the Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio.*

### **Birding the Sand Country: Oak Openings Preserve Metropark**

Follow the twenty-two mile long Oak Openings sandbelt until you arrive at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark in Northwest Ohio, and you'll quickly discover why the region is considered globally rare. The ancient glacial beach ridge in the 4,000 acre park is host to a diverse array of habitats, including remnant tallgrass and wet prairies, wet woodlands, floodplain, sand dunes, shrub-scrub, and oak savannas. These habitats harbor much biodiversity due to their unique ecology, and as a result Lucas County is home to more rare plants and animals than any other in Ohio.

The name “Oak Openings” comes from the early settlers' name for the region: “the openings between the oaks.” Their covered wagons were easily maneuvered through large expanses of grasses, sedges, and colorful varieties of forbs that grew beneath large, widely spaced oak trees. This describes typical oak savanna habitat.

Unfortunately, many of these interesting habitats have been lost over time to development and other land changes. Restoration, including prescribed burning, has been taking place in many areas of Oak Openings Preserve and has helped to improve biodiversity.

As a result, rare plants such as Prairie Fern-leaf, False Foxglove, Porcupine Grass, June Grass, Blunt-leaf Milkweed, Bird's-foot Violet, and Lupine (the host plant of the federally endangered Karner Blue butterfly) can be found here. The savanna habitat is also home to a variety of birds. Red-headed Woodpecker families visit the insect-laden snags for food and utilize them for nesting sites. Eastern Wood-Pewees call out their name from the oak canopy during the heat of the day, and Eastern Bluebirds use the hollowed limbs of the large oaks for nest cavities and glean insects in the sunlit openings. Flashy red Summer Tanagers can often be spotted singing in the savanna areas along Girdham and Wilkins Roads. This southern species can be seen breeding in several areas of Oak Openings Preserve.

The brilliant Blue Grosbeak, another colorful southern species, is sometimes seen spending the summer in the Preserve. Its loud, warbling song can be heard along Girdham near Reed Road. Other birds, such as the Eastern Meadowlarks, Field and Chipping Sparrows, American Goldfinches, and numerous Indigo Buntings can be found in the same area.

Open, sandy areas with native clump grasses favor the Lark Sparrow, listed as an endangered species in Ohio. These showy, robust sparrows with chestnut cheek patches, locally endemic to the Oak Openings region, typically breed west of the Mississippi River—hundreds of miles away from Ohio. Interestingly, they often nest here on the ground near Prickly Pear cacti, another western species found in these sparse habitats.

Another component of Oak Openings Preserve is the wet woodlands, especially along the Swan Creek floodplain. This habitat supports a great variety of nesting birds, including the Barred Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Veery, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Hooded Warbler, and Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks. During the warm weather months, you can often hear the repeated two-syllabled “kee-yer, kee-yer, kee-yer” call of the Red-shouldered Hawk as it hunts overhead.

Plan a day trip and listen for this hawk, the mechanical sounds of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, or the surreal sounds of the Whip-poor-will and Veery on a warm evening. Arrive early in the day and look for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds sipping beads of dew from the Sassafras leaves or small flocks of Cedar Waxwings flitting over the Girdham Road sand dunes. Keep in mind that there are many other noteworthy bird species like Yellow-throated, White-eyed, Red-eyed, and (rarely) Blue-headed Vireos, Blue-winged Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Brown Thrashers, and Great-crested Flycatchers that also call these special areas in Oak Openings Preserve home. Many other birds visit this important stopover habitat during migration.

While you are there, continue to explore these special communities for other creatures, too—check out a Gray Tree Frog, an endangered Antenna-waving Wasp, or an Edward's Hairstreak butterfly. You'll find that Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. For more information and directions, please go to: [www.metroparkstoleado.com](http://www.metroparkstoleado.com). —Karen Menard, Toledo

## Holden Arboretum and the Ohio Ornithological Society Host Successful Birding and Botany Event June 3 & 4, 2006

Kirtland, Ohio - Holden Arboretum, a 3,100-acre "place of beauty and inspiration," in conjunction with the Ohio Ornithological Society, hosted the first-ever Birds and Botany weekend event on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

As would be expected from an arboretum, Holden hosts plenty of horticultural delights. A great variety of rhododendrons, for example, were at peak bloom during our weekend visit. Most of Holden, however, consists of natural habitats, including some fantastic hemlock and native white pine areas.

All told, the collective group found 93 species of birds. Numerous boreal breeders were the highlight, including Blue-headed Vireos; Hermit Thrushes; Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Canada warblers; and Dark-eyed Juncos. Blackburnian and Black-throated Blue warblers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were also reported, and would produce really great breeding records, if it later can be determined that is what they are up to.

One of the hikes, co-led by Jim McCormac, Ned Keller, Ethan Kistler, and Brian Parsons, went to the amazing Little Mountain on Saturday. This enormous chunk of Sharon conglomerate sandstone is covered with hemlock and white pine, and the rock is often separated into fantastic slump blocks. Jim McCormac commented "One of the coolest things about Little Mountain is all of the nesting Dark-eyed Juncos. We must have had at least seven or eight singing males, and even found a nest." Brian Parsons, Director of Conservation Programs at Holden Arboretum, spoke to the group about one of Ohio's rarest plants: the Bristly Sarsaparilla (*Aralia hispida*), whose only known site in Ohio is Little Mountain.

Julie Zickefoose was our keynote speaker for Saturday night, and talked about warblers. She was awesome, and the talk was one of the more interesting I had heard in some time. Jules is one of those who really can look at the big picture, and had some fascinating insights into warblers and their behavior that I had never thought about. In particular, she shared some very cool theories about winter plumages and their relationship to frugivory (fruit-eating) that were very thought-provoking.

A huge thank you to all who attended, and a big thanks to everyone who helped organize the event, and volunteered their services to lead field trips. We had many of the best birders - and botanists - around, and as a result we had some really good finds.

If you get the chance, visit Holden - a trip is highly recommended!

-Judy Kolo-Rose, Richfield

### The Cerulean Available On-line

If you missed any previous issues of this newsletter, you can download them from the OOS web site at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cerulean/about.php>.

If you'd like to save trees (and OOS some postage), we will send you an e-mailed notice when future issues appear online, instead of a printed copy of this newsletter. Just send a note to the editor at [cerulean@ohiobirds.org](mailto:cerulean@ohiobirds.org).

### Cedar Bog Day

On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, over 60 attendees and more than a dozen volunteers piled into the Champaign County Community Center in Urbana for a very different kind of event for the OOS. Dubbed "Cedar Bog Day", this was an educational and entertaining symposium celebrating the biodiversity of one of Ohio's most famous wetlands, Cedar Bog. This program was co-hosted by the Ohio Historical Society and the Champaign County Master Gardeners.

As we learned in one of the three morning talks on the "bog", Cedar Bog is actually a fen, but what a fen. The place is packed with rare plants, and several rare animals, too, like Massasauga Rattlesnake. Our three lectures featured Ohio Historical Society curator of natural history Bob Glotzhober giving a general overview of Cedar Bog, OOS member Randy Rogers talking about its animal life, and myself discussing the botany of the bog.

After a great lunch in downtown Urbana, the group reconvened at Cedar Bog. There, nine separate stations were set up along the boardwalk, each manned by experts in various facets of natural history. Attendees were able to stroll between stations and observe the interesting flora and fauna with the assistance of helpful authorities who could point out many fascinating features that might have otherwise gone unnoticed or unidentified.

Biodiversity abounded - collectively, we all observed 65 species of birds, a dozen species of butterflies and probably two dozen dragonflies and damselflies, and scores of vascular plants, many of them very rare. A botanical highlight that thrilled all was the Showy Lady's-slippers, *Cypripedium reginae*, which were in near perfect bloom. This is the largest orchid in North America.

Dragonflies were real showstoppers, particularly the endangered Elfyn Skimmer and Seepage Dancer, easily seen by nearly all participants. An extroverted - and enormous - Grey Petaltail at the beginning of the boardwalk was a thrill for many, as he made frequent sorties out to the boardwalk and landed on observers.

We even saw fish! Marc Kibbey, curator of fishes at OSU's Museum of Biological Diversity, had an aquatic life station along Cedar Run, and was able to catch several of the amazing Mottled Sculpins in the stream, with the assistance of helper J.J. Soski.

We are grateful to our partners, the Ohio Historical Society - owner of Cedar Bog - and the Champaign County Master Gardeners for making this event possible. We were able to raise nearly \$400 for Cedar Bog to help with management and maintenance of this premier natural area. We have also begun to collect economic data on OOS events via our evaluations, and we estimate some \$2000.00 was spent locally by our group. It's important to demonstrate that such get-togethers are not only fun and good for the groups involved, but also have positive local impacts on the economy.

Big thanks to all of the experts who selflessly donated their time to help interpret the mysteries of Cedar Bog for the group. The overwhelmingly positive evaluations we received made it clear they were most appreciated. We are indebted to Scott Albaugh, Jim Davidson, Rick Gardner, Bob Glotzhober, Cheryl Harner, Dave Horn, Marc Kibbey, Steve Landes, Karen Menard, Doug Overacker, Ralph Ramey, Dan Reese, Randy Rogers, Jen Sauter, Troy Shively, J.J. Soski, Charlene Stapleton, and Jennifer Windus.

-Jim McCormac, OOS President

## Birder's Bio - David A. Brinkman

My first observations of birds came as a young boy on our annual family trips from Cincinnati to Sylvania, Ohio to visit my great grandparents in the mid-1970s. They lived in a traditional farmhouse on Winterhaven Road. My great uncle Joe lived two doors down. I was always fascinated by his ability to whistle "bob-white!" to which the birds would immediately respond. He'd whistle again, and again they would call. He could whistle through his teeth much better than I. On each visit, he and I took daily walks to the end of Winterhaven Road to feed apples to the horses. He pointed out the Barn Swallows that flew around them. I was just a casual observer at that time and didn't know there was a hobby called birding. My great grandfather also had a keen interest in birds, although in his later years with emphysema he was no more than an armchair birdwatcher. Still, I learned a lot about birds through him and his books. He kept a copy of Alexander Wetmore's 1964 book *Song and Garden Birds of North America* on his coffee table along with Frank M. Chapman's 1920 classic *What Bird is That?* After his death in 1979, my great grandmother gave me these books as well as several newspaper clippings from the *Toledo Blade*, some 1898 Singer sewing machine songbird cards, and his pair of Stellar binoculars.

Back home in Cincinnati under the custody of my grandparents, my interest in birds grew with my grandfather's backyard feeding station in southeastern Hamilton County. It was during the winter of 1976-77 that I really fell in love with the birds. That winter was very colorful with daily flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple

Finches, and Pine Siskins. In those days we also had at least two Red-headed Woodpeckers visiting our feeders, but they would take only one seed at a time and fly away to cache it somewhere. I wish I had kept more careful records then, had I only known how special that winter was. Soon the Evening Grosbeaks and Red-headed Woodpeckers disappeared. By the time I began keeping records in 1979, the Red-headed were replaced by Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

My ornithological interests include migration, breeding biology, and population dynamics, particularly of neotropical migrant songbirds. I have studied statistics extensively at Northern Kentucky University and obtained a Bachelor of Science in mathematics there. I have also participated in several volunteer and seasonal projects, including the Audubon Christmas bird count, the Cornell nest record card program, the first Ohio breeding bird atlas, the Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes, the Cincinnati Peregrine Falcon Release Project, the East Fork breeding bird atlas, and a research project in the Ironton district of the Wayne National Forest studying the effects of forest fragmentation on breeding songbirds. I have recently completed computer entry of my records that I have meticulously kept over the years, including many nest and behavior observations. Someday I hope to publish these records.

-- David A. Brinkman, Cincinnati

### Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

For an online version of this application visit: [www.ohiobirds.org/join.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/join.php)

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**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
Rocky River Watershed Conservation Initiative**

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, founded in 1974, is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Its mission is to educate the public about conservation of the natural world through member involvement in chapter activities, local conservation legislation advocacy, and community outreach. WCAS has begun a new conservation program in the Rocky River watershed using scientific management, conservation education, and empowerment of local citizens to have a positive conservation impact in Northeast Ohio, by embracing the principles of Audubon Ohio's Important Bird Areas (IBA) program.

IBAs are tracts of land recognized by Audubon Ohio and non-governmental groups as crucial to the existence of birds and other wildlife because of their unique habitats. The Rocky River IBA consists of the watershed habitat along the East Branch of the Rocky River from Hinckley north to Lake Erie. This watershed contains valuable and scarce forests and wetlands. The Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society is "adopting" this IBA by developing a coordinated program to assess its bird populations and help create appreciation for the natural resources of the Rocky River. Other Audubon chapters in Ohio have also begun monitoring IBAs, but WCAS has developed a model that goes beyond monitoring in that stakeholders will use data collected during the survey to influence wise land-use decisions in the Rocky River watershed.

The first step in the management of the IBA is to accurately assess the diversity and density of the various breeding birds in the area. WCAS will use scientific survey techniques to gather data on breeding birds in the watershed for their main partners, Cleveland

Metroparks and Audubon Ohio. WCAS will share these data with other partners, including the Ohio Ornithological Society and the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative. Thorough surveys have not been conducted before, and such data are needed for decisions concerning land use and management within the watershed. Volunteers have been trained in the proper data collecting techniques and this use of citizen science will enhance buy-in from the community for future projects and help create a core of conservationists in the citizenry. Once the data have been analyzed, public education and marketing techniques may be used to create an interest in the community in this unique habitat. The collection of data is only the beginning step in an evolving holistic conservation initiative in the Rocky River watershed.

This project will have three significant impacts in the communities of the Rocky River watershed and quite possibly an impact throughout the state. First, it will incorporate scientific data on birds into natural resource conservation decisions concerning land use, local zoning, and land acquisitions. Second, it will increase local knowledge and interest concerning the Rocky River watershed and will empower citizens to direct the conservation actions taken in their communities. Finally, on a statewide basis, this program may be used by other Audubon chapters to protect and study the various IBAs in their communities.

*--Tom Romito, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
--Stan Searles, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo*

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**THE OHIO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
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Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the Ohio Ornithological Society is the only statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio's bird habitats.

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