

## The Ohio Ornithological Society *and, our partner, the Wilds*

welcome you to an exciting day exploring one of Ohio's most interesting winter birding locales.



### Saturday, January 14, 2012

Combined property owned by the Wilds and the surrounding American Electric Power lands, allows nearly 20,000 acres of raptor-rich country available for us to explore.

With a mixture of grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and lakes, the Wilds is home to a great diversity of bird species. Audubon has recognized the Wilds as one of Ohio's Important Bird Areas, and birders from near and far have discovered the abundance of bird life here.

### Group Assignments - *important*

***Because of the large number of participants on this field trip (nearly 150), we ask that you please follow these instructions carefully so that everything flows smoothly.***

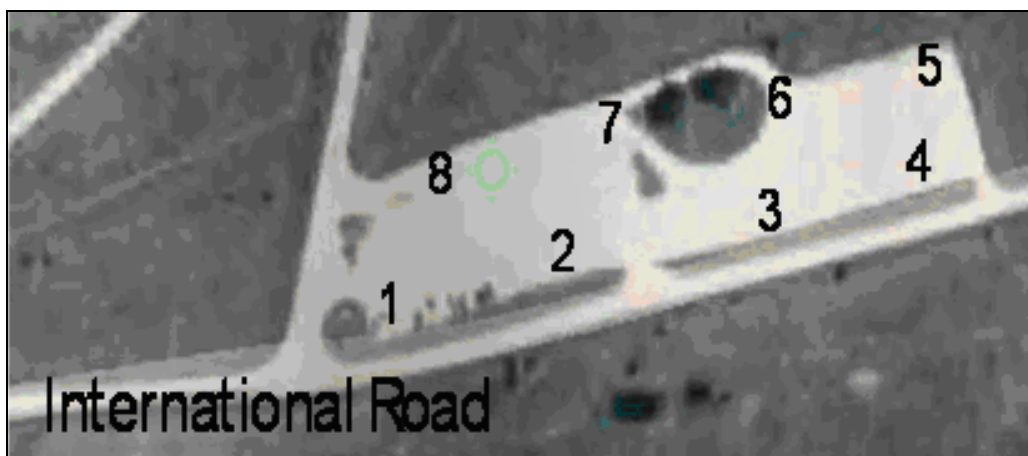
(see your Group number in your recent email)

To help everyone spend a full day in the field we have divided everyone into eight Groups with two leaders each who are familiar with the area. (We have kept spouses and friends together as registered.)

The main parking lot on International Road (at the bottom of the drive to the Visitor's Center and Gift Shop buildings) will be divided into eight staging areas prominently numbered with signs (see diagram below).

- Upon arrival, please find your assigned rendezvous area in the large gravel parking lot.
- There will be eight (8) separate staging areas, each corresponding with the number of your Group (see your Group number in your recent email confirmation).
  - Group 1 will be the first area to your right as you pull in the lot.
  - Group 2 will be the next area to the east, and so on.
  - The staging areas will be marked with signs.
- To help avoid traffic congestion, each Group will rotate through and visit all birding sites at different times throughout the day.

### Parking Lot diagram - *groups staging areas*



## Carpools Request

- To help consolidate cars we will organize carpools for each Group.
- To accommodate approximately 18 people per Group, we will need 4-6 cars per Group.
- **When you arrive, please indicate if you are willing to drive for the carpool and how many additional people you can include in your vehicle.**

## Directions & Gear List

- Also available at the OOS website are directions, map, birding site descriptions for The Wilds.
- **For warm Winter Birding tips, checkout the article from Bird Watchers' Digest.**
- To help make your day in the field comfortable and productive remember to bring the following items as you wish.
  - **brownbag lunch** for the lunch program in the Wilds Overlook Café Building.
    - snacks & beverages
    - binoculars and/or scope
    - camera
    - field guides
    - appropriate (heavy duty) cold/wet weather clothing
    - two-way radios (charged) to share your exciting sightings (ABA frequency/code combination 11/22)

## Agenda

The agenda for the day will be as follows.

<b>8:30 - 8:45</b>	Group & carpool organization	Main Parking Lot - International Road
<b>9:00</b>	Stagger start time by Group	
<b>Groups 1 - 4</b>	<b>Lunch program</b>	
<b>12:00</b>	Brown bag lunch at The Wilds	Program by The Wilds staff
<b>1:00</b>	Back into the field for more birding	
<b>Groups 5 - 8</b>	<b>Lunch program</b>	
<b>1:15</b>	Brown bag lunch at The Wilds	Program by The Wilds staff
<b>2:15</b>	Back into the field for more birding	
<b>3:00</b>	Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return to the parking lot to allow those who wish to leave for home.</li> <li>• Groups may collectively decide they would like to remain in the field longer.</li> </ul>
<b>Optional</b>		
<b>3:00 – 5:00</b>	Short-eared Owl show	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birding Station at Jeffrey Point (location 2 on map)</li> <li>• Zion Ridge Road, midpoint (location 3 on map)</li> <li>• Long Pond/State Route 340 (location 5 on map)</li> </ul>

## Lunch Schedule

Each Group will return to the Wilds Overlook Café building on the hill above the parking lot where we initially met.

- **Bring Your Lunch**
- **Lunches will be staggered to accommodate the large number of participants.**
  - **Groups 1 through 4** - will arrive for lunch at 12:00 am and depart by 1:00 pm
  - **Groups 5 through 8** - will arrive for lunch at 1:15 pm and depart by 2:15 pm
- We will eat in the warm building, and enjoy a program by The Wilds staff.
- The Gift Shop and restrooms will be open.

## Restrooms

The Wilds is a large area and not convenient to civilization. Restrooms will be available at the two buildings on the hill above the main parking lot.

They will open as follows;

- |                          |              |                               |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| • Johnson Visitor Center | 8:00 – 12:30 | turn right at top of hill     |
| • Overlook Café Building | 12:30 – 4:30 | first building at top of hill |

**Thank You for joining OOS at the Wilds!**