



February 2020 - April 2020

Field Trips.....	2-3
Trips, Maps and Directions.....	4
Volunteers and Fundraising.....	5
Programs.....	6
News.....	7

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4310 Bush Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109

> (216) 741-2352

> info@wcaudubon.org

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Royal Oaks, Lorain County Metro Parks Chimney Swifts Tower Project

By Amanda Sebrosky, Founder, Northeast Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation Society

“Several factors have contributed to the rapid decline of chimney swift populations including loss of nesting and roosting sites due historically to loss of forests and now, primarily, loss or capping of chimneys on houses and buildings. This is something we can do something about rapidly by building free-standing towers.”

I started Northeast Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation Society in November of 2019 after briefly helping care for chimney swift orphans at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center (LENSC) in Bay Village, Ohio. Tim Jasinski, LENS Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist, mentioned how swifts were rapidly losing habitat and populations are crashing. While I’ve always been passionate about environmental conservation, chimney swifts became my ‘spark’ bird for learning more about bird conservation.

Several factors have contributed to the rapid decline of chimney swift populations including loss of nesting and roosting sites due historically to loss of forests and now, primarily, loss or capping of chimneys on houses and buildings. This is something we can do something about rapidly by building free-standing towers. These are essentially tall wood boxes with horizontal grooves in the interior walls which allow the birds to hang on and attach nests. The towers are 8-12 feet tall.

My vision is to make Northeast Ohio a chimney swift haven by building hundreds of towers in every park and school in Northeast Ohio as well as in backyards of private residences where open spaces exist. Additionally, I hope to engage citizens to help with monitoring activity at towers helping me keep a database of locations and possibly population counts.

My first success has been with Lorain County Metro Parks. They have been very positive about placing towers in their parks from the start and have already made plans to place a tower at Royal Oaks in Grafton, Ohio -- the first of what I hope will be many towers in Lorain County Metro Parks. The money for this tower came from a fundraiser on the facebook page for Northeast Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation which members generously supported. *(continued next page...)*



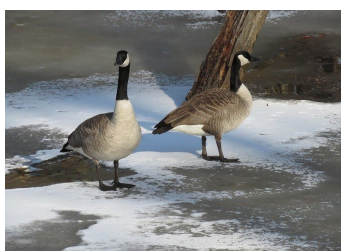
Above: Second Saturday Birders April 13, 2019 by Martin J. Calabrese.

(continued from page 1...) Future towers will be supported through grants, donations, sponsorships and other fundraisers. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has provided much needed advice and support for this conservation project. WCAS acts as fiscal agent enabling CSCS to apply for grants for non-profit organizations - something I would be unable to do as an individual, ensuring all donations are tax-deductible. [Read Online](#)

An Urban Park is Coming! Imagine a park in the city that was once a dump site for 30 years. That's what's coming this year to Cleveland's near west side! It's called Brighton Park. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) is one of several organizations that are partnering with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to make it happen. The Conservancy is going to put the first shovel in the ground at West 25th St. and Henninger Rd. on April 1. This is adjacent to Burger King and at the top of Wildlife Ave. that leads down to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The park won't be open to the public until July of this year. Stay tuned for the May 2020 spring/summer issue of "The Feathered Flyer" for more information! [Read Online](#)

Welcome New Members! Alisa Gerbec, Todd Higgins, Georgian LaGuardia, Kathleen Neugebauer, Allen Rand, Joe Sudomir, Jassen Tawil Family, and Hillary Thomale and Daniel Walker.

BIRD WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS >>>



Second Saturday Bird Walk Photos (left to right): West Channel by Penny O'Connor; Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) by Bridgette Seebacher; Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria*) by Penny O'Connor; Birders April 13, 2019 by Martin J. Calabrese.

Second Saturday Bird Walks at Rocky River Nature Center

UPCOMING DATES: February 8, 2020 / March 14, 2020 / April 11, 2020

Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper, Bill Deininger, and Marty Calabrese lead walks on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM on trails around the Rocky River Reservation, home of the Rocky River Important Bird Area. New to birding? Grab some binoculars and join us. You'll be amazed how fast you can learn birds by sight and sound. Walks begin at the Rocky River Nature Center parking lot, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH and are provided at no charge to the public. See, [Member News](#)

Field Trips

Event: Field Trip to Huntington Beach and Lakefront Spots

Date & Time: Sat Feb 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Leap Year Day!

Location: Meet at 28648 Lake Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140

Target Birds: Waterfowl, Gulls, Bald Eagle

Description: The Lake Erie lakefront is great for waterfowl and gulls. Bald Eagles occasionally fly over in search of fish or other prey. We start at Huntington Beach, Bay Village and move to other points, depending on weather and sightings. Bring a scope if you have one. Dress in warm layers. Meet by the water tower, a.k.a. ice cream stand. [Details Online](#)

Event: Field Trip to South Mastick Picnic Area

Date & Time: Sun Mar 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Meet at South Mastick Picnic Area, Valley Pkwy just south of the intersection of Valley Parkway and Mastick/Puritas Rds, Fairview Park, OH

Leader: Liz McQuaid

Target species: Early migrants, Pileated Woodpecker and 6 other Woodpecker species

Description: Early spring migrants are arriving in Northeast Ohio. We'll try for all 7 woodpecker species found in our area, in addition to migrant songbirds. Bald Eagle sightings are possible. [Details Online](#)

Event: Field Trip to Brookside Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks

Date & Time: Sat April 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Cleveland Metroparks Brookside Reservation, John Nagy Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44144

Leaders: Rich and Karen Kassouf

Target Birds: Orchard Oriole, Peregrine Falcon

Description: The route begins at the Ridge Road entrance. Depending on weather, we might see Yoshino cherry trees in bloom. We'll travel Big Creek to the Fulton Road bridge where Peregrine Falcons have nested in recent years. This trip combines "bird by car" and "parking lot birding"; with stops for some short walks, birder's choice. [Details Online](#)

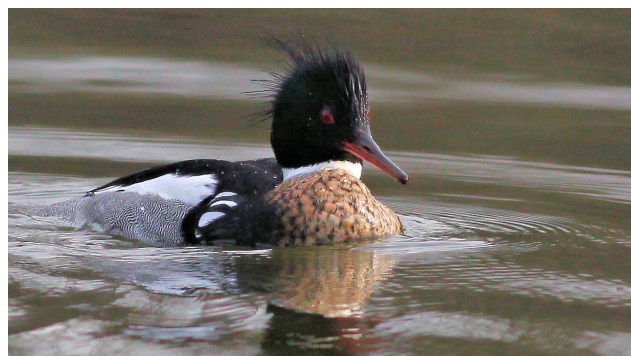
The 87th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks is one of the oldest citizen science partnerships between NE OH park systems, Audubon groups and other organizations. It celebrates the return of migratory birds for breed or staying in NE OH for the summer season. Experienced birders lead walks Sundays, April 12 through May 17 at 7:30 a.m. [Details](#)



Above: Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) in Elyria Ohio by Tom Fishburn.



Above: Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) (male) by Tom Fishburn.

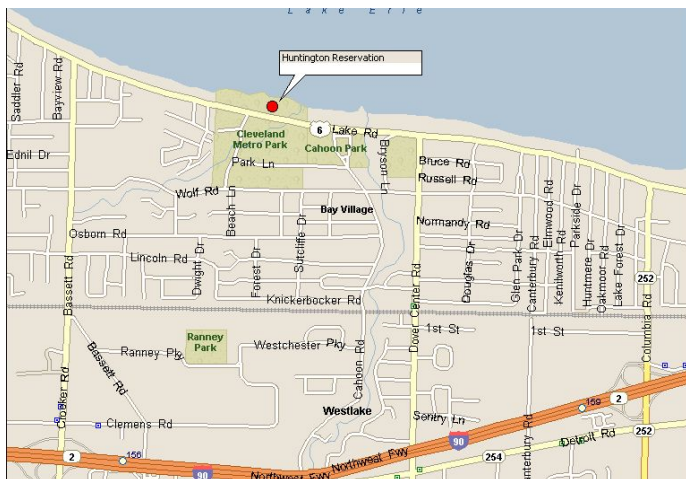


Above: Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) by Tom Fishburn.



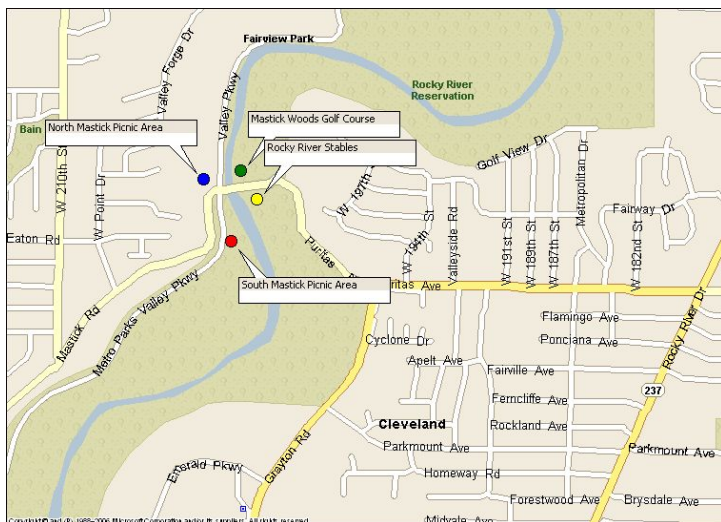
Above: Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) by Tom Fishburn.

TRIPS, MAPS AND DIRECTIONS >>>



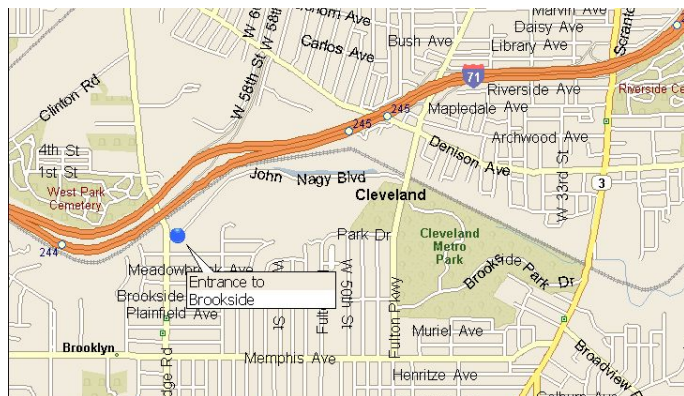
Huntington Beach

Directions: From Cleveland take Lake Rd. (Rte. 6) to Bay Village, or take I-90 to Columbia Rd. Go north to Lake Road. Turn west (left) on Lake Road. The main parking lot for Huntington Beach is on the north side of Lake Road. In Google maps, a good address to use is 28648 Lake Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140. [Map](#)



South Mastick Picnic Area

Directions: South Mastick Picnic Area is located off Valley Parkway, just south of the intersection of Puritas/Mastick Road in Fairview Park, OH. [Map](#)



Brookside Reservation

Directions: Brookside Reservation is just off Ridge Road, at John Nagy Blvd. From I-480, go to the Ridge Road exit. Follow Ridge Road north about 1.7 miles. You will pass Biddulph Ave. and Memphis Ave. Look for John Nagy Blvd. on the right. There is a Metroparks sign. Turn right onto John Nagy Blvd. We will meet not far from the entrance, where the road has very wide shoulders for parking. Park in the vicinity of small cherry trees. [Map](#)

WCAS Bird Friendly Coffee Club. Kingbird, Espresso Bird Friendly® Coffee blends Nicaraguan and Guatemalan coffees, has dominant Mandarin orange on the aroma, with nutty sweet toffee, clean and smooth in the cup. Triple certified, shade grown Smithsonian Bird Friendly/Fair-Trade/USDA Organic. 12oz, 2lb and 5lb bags available. No shipping fees and 5% of WCAS annual coffee sales support local chapter conservation projects. Order by the 10th of every month. [Go Here](#)



Photo: Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) by Tom Fishburn.

VOLUNTEERS AND FUNDRAISING >>>



Above (left to right): Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle 2019 East Clark Bird Nerds and Members of Ohio Young Birders Club Birding Group at Coe Lake, Berea Falls to Lagoons by Liz McQuaid. Rocky River Nature Center Birders by Michelle Brosius. Elmwood Park Birders by Jeff Kraus. CBC-Lakewood Group 2019 by Deb Sweeney.

2019 Christmas Bird Count-Lakewood Circle - Preliminary Results The Christmas Bird Count information presented here is preliminary. Totals of species have not been included as results are still coming in. A final compilation will be on the Western Cuyahoga Audubon website by mid January. Please mark your calendars for the 2020 Christmas Bird Count which will be held on **Sunday, December 27, 2020**. The Lakewood Circle Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 29, 2019, had good weather and, above all, great participants. A huge thank you to everyone who walked, drove or watched feeders and covered the Lakewood Circle well. Spring-like weather, before, during, and a couple of days after the count, had birds scattered far and wide. Count day temperature varied from 36 degrees in the morning to 46 in the afternoon with partly to mostly sunny skies. All water sources were completely open again keeping waterfowl and gulls scattered. One noticeable item was that many fruiting trees and shrubs, that at times attract additional species, had already been stripped of fruit. The number of species seen during the count was good, as the list attests. As always, some nice surprises rounded out the sightings. The list includes 73 species from count day and 4 from count week. Once again, THANK YOU, participants. Your dedication is truly appreciated. - *By Nancy Howell, Compiler for the Lakewood Circle.* [Read Online](#)

Urban Birding Cleveland Has Begun! David Lindo has left our city in search of his next birding adventure, but his energy and inspiration lingers in the birding community of Cleveland and surrounding areas. I'm reminded of the excitement of Urban Birding with David Lindo week and the numerous birders inspired to join us. The crowds drawn in the first weekend of chilly November can only be matched by spring migration. We didn't have a diversity of warblers to offer, nonetheless, we attracted a diversity of people. People from all walks of life, race, and gender. That is what urban birding is all about. Connecting diverse groups of people to nature in their own neighborhoods. All necessary for our well-being. WCAS has now officially launched [Urban Birding Cleveland](#) I would like to thank our sponsors, partners, and volunteers of Urban Birding with David Lindo week and we are thrilled that one partner, Tremont West Development Corporation, plans to incorporate urban birding into their neighborhood development plan! We hope people will remember the locations we visited in their neighborhoods during David Lindo's visit—the Flats, the Tremont Neighborhood Walkabout, Lake County Lakefront, and more—and take the time to connect with nature right outside their homes. As David would say, "Get out there and don't forget to look up!" Stay tuned for more! - *By Michelle Brosius, WCAS Board Member, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.* [Read Online](#)

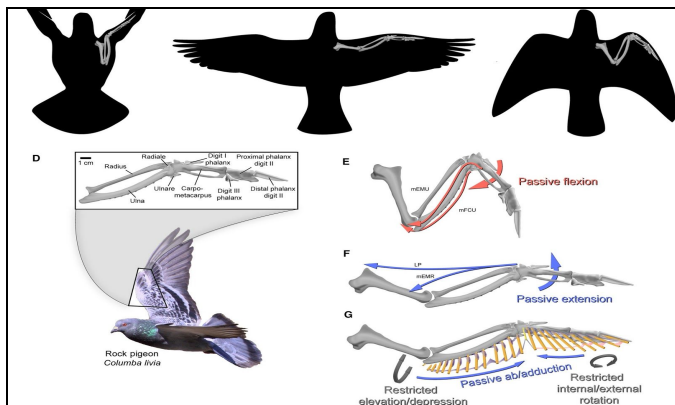
Sponsor-A-Speaker Support monthly WCAS ornithological and natural science presentations. Make a \$100.00 donation per program [Go Here](#) Or, send a check payable to 'Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society' to Nancy Howell, WCAS Treasurer, 19340 Fowles Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130.

Thank You Volunteers! *Board Member* Rynette Vall, Recording Secretary for leadership service. *Speakers* Joseph Lautenbach, Ohio Division of Wildlife; Earl Peck, WCAS member and photographer; and Kay Lukac, Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association. *Bird walk and field trip leaders* Andy Avram, Jen Brumfield, Marty Calabrese, Tim Colborn, Bill Deininger, Rebecca Donaldson, Tim Fairweather, Ken Gober, Dave Graskemper, Nancy Howell, Tim Jasinski, Patty Kellner, Jim McCarty, Liz McQuaid, John Pogacnik, Monica Marshall, Tom Romito, Julie West. *Photographers and Writers* Michelle Brosius, Tom Fishburn, Gary Hietala, Anna Julnes, Jeff Kraus, Gus Lanese, Patrick McGuigan, Liz McQuaid, Michael Murphy, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Debra Sweeney, Kaoru Tsubone. *Special thanks* to Bethany Presbyterian Church.

PROGRAMS >>>

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Speaker Series 2019-2020

Western Cuyahoga Audubon programs are free and open to the public. Monthly programs are held the first Tuesday of each month, September through May, at the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Pkwy, North Olmsted, OH 44070. Guests are invited to learn about the Audubon mission. [Map](#)



Above: Skeletal anatomy and wing shape in rock pigeons.
Courtesy of [Tobin L Hieronymus](#)

"How Birds Shape the Air: The Structure and Function of Bird Wings"

Presenter: Dr. Tobin Hieronymus, Assistant Professor at Northeast Ohio Medical University

Date & Time: Tue Feb 4, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: Bird wings are iconic structures. Across cultures and through history they appear, grafted in their entirety, onto other beings or objects of symbols of speed or flight. But beneath the feathers lies a system of bones, muscles and tendons that governs flight mechanics. The presentation explores the evolutionary story and anatomy of bird wings.

[Read Online](#)

"Implications of Climate Change in the Arctic"

Presenter: Dr. Anne Farley Schoeffler, Educator at Seton Catholic School

Date & Time: Tue March 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: Many of us will never visit the Arctic, yet the lives of many migratory birds and wildlife, such as polar bears and killer whales are dependent on harsh environments. Dr. Anne Schoeffler served as a teacher- researcher in Greenland in 2016 with PolarTREC. Her presentation covers the Arctic environment, Arctic amplification of climate change, and consequences for ecosystems. [Read Online](#)



Above: Gentoo Penguins with chicks at Jougla Point, Antarctica.
By Liam Quinn from Canada - Wikimedia.

"Emergent Mechanics of the Cup Nest and Its 'Mechanical Synthesis'"

Presenters: Dr. Hunter King, University of Akron

Date & Time: Tue April 7, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Description: From the perspective of polymer research and biomimicry, the cup nest built by some birds is unusual: it's cohesive without attractive interactions; it's plastic and soft though its elements are elastic and stiff. Birds building this type of nest appear to embody an instinctive understanding of the emergent mechanics of thin, flexible, and frictional grains, one that is currently lacking in the scientific community. [Read Online](#)



Above: Dr. Hunter King, University of Akron, received an NSF grant to study the collective mechanical interactions of disordered, randomly packed elastic filaments, or slender rods similar to twigs used in birds' nests. Pictured here are "nest" materials in his lab.

NEWS >>>



Above: The WCAS Conservation Project Lab, Urban Birding Cleveland, Tremont Route sub-committee meets in January 2020 at Civilization Coffee House in Tremont, Ohio. Photo by Betsey O'Hagan.

WCAS Conservation Project Lab Update

The Conservation Project Lab is a forum to generate and bring to fruition projects that promote the well-being of birds (and plants and animals including humans) by means of conservation and education. Projects are generally expected to be self-sustainable, although they may need seed money. Now in its second year, the Lab is currently engaged in several projects: **Native Plant Sales** strives to educate the general public about native plants, which are extremely important to our native birds, and to facilitate their planting. **Urban Birding Cleveland** has a Route subcommittee mapping out possible routes in Tremont neighborhoods, scheduling presentations at Tremont Block Clubs, recruiting 3-4 volunteers to assist them in putting on these presentations (training included!); the Outreach subcommittee is partnering with youth organizations to bring Urban Birding concepts and activities to school-age students. **NE Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation Society Tower Project** is led by Amanda Sebrosky, Founder. WCAS acts as fiscal agent to enable project grant applications and to accept donations without tax consequences and Labs help recruit volunteers. One tower is largely built and Amanda has contacts regarding locations for others.

The Conservation Project Lab meets the first Sat of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 6415 W. Clinton Ave. Labs are open to the public. We are always open to new ideas, so long as they help fulfill our mission, as well as volunteers and donations. The next meeting is March 7, 2020. - Kurt Miske, Chair, Conservation Project Lab [Read Online](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

Event: 23rd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

Dates: Fri Feb 14, 2020-Mon Feb 17, 2020

Time & Place: All day and at various locations

[Announcement](#)

Event: Shreve Spring Migration Sensation

Date & Time: Sat March 21, 2020, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Location: Shreve United Methodist Church

430 N Main St, Shreve, OH 44676, USA

Websites: [City of Shreve](#) or [Greater Mohican Audubon](#)

Event: Urban Birding with David Lindo in Cleveland, OH
Dates: June 8-18, 2020

Presenter: David Lindo, Author, VP Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, 7th most influential person in Wildlife by BBC Wildlife Magazine, Ambassador for Leica Birding, London Wildlife Trust, and President, Suntrap Forest Education Centre.

[Website](#)

The Western Cuyahoga Audubon Chapter Newsletter is published four times per year in February, May, August and November.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon programs are free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

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Western Cuyahoga Audubon Volunteer Opportunities and Leadership Positions

Volunteer to do more for birds and habitat conservation! Let us know what you're interested in by completing our WCAS Volunteer form. [Go Here](#)

Volunteer and Public Relations Coordinator - The Coordinator oversees recruitment, placement, and retention of volunteers and is an advocate for the Audubon mission, WCAS programs and services. Attend Board meetings. Don't miss this rewarding opportunity to engage in meaningful work! **Fundraising Coordinator**. The fundraising coordinator attends Board meetings, plans events, monitors activities, and builds relationships to grow donations and revenue for chapter operations and projects. **Social Gatherings Coordinator**. Do you love to create exciting and fun social gatherings? Help us schedule four action-packed events per year for WCAS members, affiliates, and friends. Birds and beer? Boating excursions? Attend monthly Board meetings. Join us! Read, [WCAS Volunteer Positions 2020](#)

Membership. Become a member, renew membership, and make a donation online or by mailing a check payable to 'Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society'. Mail to: Nancy Howell, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Treasurer, 19340 Fowles Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130 or, purchase [Membership Online](#). You'll be glad you did and the birds will thank you for it!



Shop today at **AmazonSmile** and designate Western Cuyahoga Audubon as your charitable organization of choice. When you shop at smile.amazon.com the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Western Cuyahoga Audubon.

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
4310 Bush Ave
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