

**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society**  
**January 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday) Board Meeting**  
**at Book and Bean, Berea, OH 6:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

**Present: Dan Petit, Kit Birch, Nancy Howell, Stan Searles, Tom Romito, Diane Sigler, Mary Anne Romito, Penny O'Connor, Terri Martincic, Dave Dvorak, Linda Sekura, Terry Robison**

1. Finances (Annual Appeal Fund) – Nancy Howell.  
33 contributions so far, totaling \$1,007. Five sent \$100. Profit on the appeal was \$485. First time WCAS has done this (in recent memory)
2. Analysis of the IBA data (Dan Petit & Terry Robison).  
Everyone got a copy of the findings of the 2007 Rocky River Important Bird Area Forest Breeding Bird Survey. Point Counts alone can be biased, would like to integrate the bird counts with vegetation data. Noted location of most species highly sensitive to forest disturbance: Hinckley. First three graphs represent some of the same issues. Numbers of birds detected by distance are essentially the same from 2006-2007. In graphs for individual species the charts use a standardized the scale this year, so the numbers of birds are parallel. Hinckley shows up as special, note presence of hooded warblers. Similar results in Metroparks surveys of mammals and amphibians. Scarlet tanager numbers may be related to distances to openings, etc. as the distribution is not consistently in just one reservation. Four groupings of birds. According to Dan Petit: Nothing ever fits exactly in the categories, maybe better to focus on individual species. Hooded warblers are associated with understory density under 1.5 meters. Is the RRIBA habitat just more suitable for stopovers? In CVNRA there are areas 400-500 meters from disturbance.
3. Adding IBA points – center forest, and Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (Terri Martincic).  
It appears we have not surveyed some deeper forest areas in Hinckley Reservation. What about generating a few interior points? Tom Romito: There are still many points from original randomized list which were not used. Need to assure that we have enough volunteers to survey the additional points.  
Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas: WCAS participated in original survey 20 years ago. Next week, Saturday, January 19 interested birders can meet with Ken Gober at Rocky River Nature Center after the “Monthly morning with the birds.” Rocky River IBA bird survey data will be incorporated into this survey. Participants will select blocks.
4. Additional IBA components:  
Valerie Fetzer has identified some possible vernal pools. Need volunteers to monitor the pools. These should be pools with no fish. We can also identify some of our own pools. Maybe find more during bird surveys. Diane noted that Kathy Krynak may also want monitors to test for chytrid. Diane Sigler notes that Valerie is also working on an owl survey. Terri suggested making these activities available to volunteers at the March 30 kickoff. Tom Romito noted that WCAS needs for Valerie to provide a list of the potential vernal pools, so that we can plan for monitoring.
5. Update on Annual Report (Mary Anne Romito & Diane Sigler).  
Ideas: Call it “Progress Report” as it will not necessarily be done every year. Data for 2007 will be added. Stan Searles suggested adding info on increased participation in WCAS as a result of the IBA survey. Executive Summary needed. Discussion: Time frame of the study. It was originally framed as a five-year study. Terri Martincic suggested a longer time span might reveal

the effect of the Emerald Ash Borer. Stan Searles noted that over time bird populations could be affected by changes in urban sprawl and water quality.

6. IBA outreach talks (Terry Martincic & Nancy Howell)  
PowerPoint show for outreach is still in the works. May have more than one version.
7. Collaboration with the Rocky River Watershed Council (RRWC) on January 30 at Middleburg Hts. Library (Diane Sigler)  
This will be a meeting with public officials, including mayors, members of city council, city engineers. There will be a presentation on oil and gas drilling at the same meeting. WCAS is collaborating with RRWC because our two organizations have compatible goals, namely, the protection and preservation of the Rocky River watershed through education. We also are inviting RRWC members to participate in the IBA walk on May 24.
8. IBA Walk (Stan Searles)  
Champs Racing has listed this event. It begins May 24 at 6 a.m. at Buzzard's Roost, ends at the Emerald Necklace Marina at 5-5:30 p.m. Duathlon begins at PawPaw with biking to Ranger Station, and run to Marina. Metroparks Ranger will stop traffic at major intersections as cyclists cross because the event is going to be competitive. WCAS will have to pay Metroparks for that service. Stan Searles will publicize the event to local triathlon groups. Stan Searles asks that WCAS to do several things for the event: 1) provide 12-15 volunteers to staff points along the route; 2) form a public relations committee to organize media interest; 3) get corporate sponsors; and 4) arrange for bus transportation to shuttle participants back to their bikes after the event. These items will appear on our monthly board meeting agenda as the event approaches.
9. Dike 14 update – open house dates (Mary Anne Romito)  
Public open houses are May 3 and Sept 20. There will be a neighborhood open house during the Glenville Festival, about July 12.
10. Purchase of Bird Guides (Tom Romito)  
The laminated bird cards sold well last year. Discount is fifty percent if we purchase 200 or more, may mix and match titles. Tom moved we purchase 200, Penny seconded. Tabled.
11. National Audubon Society's population and habitat program (Tom Romito).  
National Audubon Society has launched a program relating human population to habitat.
12. Response to Dike 14 EEC Discovery Kit (Liz Clingman).  
Liz made a kit available to teacher at South Euclid Lyndhurst, but not much feedback. She will offer it to a teacher in Middleburg Hts.
13. North Coast Nature Festival April 25-27 (Tom Romito)  
Dave Lewis will have his own table and has volunteered to distribute WCAS literature.
14. Medina Raptor Center Donation (Tom Romito)  
Tom moved that WCAS donate \$100 to the Raptor Center. Terri seconded. Stan Searles noted the success of this group in rehabilitating birds and releasing them into the wild.
15. Lake to Lake trail (Mary Anne Romito)  
Debra Shankland wants species checklists and notables about Lake Abram. Terri Martincic noted there is a Great Horned Owl, Nancy noted the presence of Virginia Rail. Nancy suggests a notice to the Sun papers about WCAS program on the Lake to Lake trail.

16. West Creek (Terry Robison)

Metroparks is launching studies to see how the watershed may be improved. Will wetlands, grassy banks, rain gardens, etc. be effective? Or are more engineered solutions needed? Will apply for EPA grants to test methods and monitor runoff.

17. February 17, WCAS field trip to the Zoo, with Stan Searles, make a note.

18. Next WCAS board meeting is Monday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Book and Bean in Berea

19. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.