

## MINUTES THE WCAS APRIL MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society was held at the Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted, Ohio, on April 6, 2004. There were approximately 25 people present. President Tom Romito conducted the meeting.

1. Tom introduced Jack Rupert, who was visiting us and is a member of Audubon Ohio's State Board.
2. The minutes of the March meeting were read by recording secretary, Kit Birch.
3. Craig Caldwell gave a brief recap of the March field trip to Columbia Reservation. Although it was a cold, wet day the intrepid birders managed to count 17 species and were especially rewarded to see a Carolina Wren.
4. Tom reminded everyone of the upcoming annual picnic on Sunday, June 6, at Horseshoe Pond located in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. A bird walk will begin at 8 a.m. and there is a pavilion with grills and tables available on site. At approximately 12 noon we will have a short combined business meeting with the Akron Audubon chapter. Prizes for the WCAS Passport program will be handed out and a plant exchange will take place. Tom plans to send fliers out to members containing picnic details and a map of the location.
5. Tom said he recently learned of a nature show being held at RRNC on April 17 & 18, and has been asked to staff a WCAS display table for this event. He called up all our members to find eight volunteers for this and was successful. He wanted to meet with these volunteers after the meeting to give them an information packet he assembled to explain to the public what WCAS is all about.
6. Terri Martincic announced her Weeders in the Wild group will host a garlic mustard pull at Frostville Museum on April 24, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. A scout troop will be there to help also.
7. Trish Faehnrich told us she will be taking over the grant part of Terri's invasive plant project which will include \$1000 from Audubon At Home. She said she will work with Terri and Kit to make this a more general education program which will include Weeders In The Wild.
8. Kit Birch gave a brief presentation on what she learned at Audubon At Home's Field Consultant Workshop on March 27. She was given resource material which focuses on these topics: Native plant landscaping for birds and wildlife; Pesticides and alternatives; Water quality and conservation; Bird habitat, health, and safety. Kit hopes to function as a resource person for WCAS members and to work with Terri and Trish on the Audubon At Home grant project. She also suggested we use shade grown coffee at our hospitality table every month to encourage use of this product which provides much needed habitat for our migratory birds. This received a favorable response from most members present.

9. Mary Anne showed us copies of the Kirtland Bird Club's "Birds of Cleveland Region" book and its updated version. She said they are selling at \$4.50 each. Mary Anne reminded us that she is leading a field trip to IRA trailhead in the CVNP on April 17.

10. Nancy Howell asked for volunteers to sign up at the back table for the May 22, Dike 14 Wildlife Fest put on by the Environmental Education Collaborative, which includes Audubon Ohio. She also had fliers with all details and location for those interested. Nancy reminded us that the Edgewater State Park School Days event will be held on May 26 at Edgewater State Park. Glen and Sandy Stroud have volunteered for this.

11. Veterinarian Dr. Heather McDowell of Animal Clinic Northview presented her program "A Bird's-Eye View of Wildlife Rehabilitation". Her dedication to aiding wildlife that is brought in to her in need of help was very apparent in her slide show and detailed commentary. The unusual and educational pictures were appreciated by all in attendance.