

MINUTES OF WCAS FEBRUARY 2004 MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society was held at Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted, Ohio, on February 3, 2004. There were 17 people present. President Tom Romito conducted the meeting.

1. The minutes of the January meeting were read by recording secretary, Kit Birch.
2. Tom acknowledged a guest visitor, Jerry Tinianow, Executive Director of Audubon Ohio.
3. Terri Martincic gave an update on her invasive plant group project. A planning meeting will be held at Rocky River Nature Center on Monday, Feb. 9. Anyone interested in helping with this project is encouraged to come. You may also talk to Terri before or after monthly meetings.
4. Treasurer Mary Anne Romito informed us of the Kirtland Bird Club's project to have the 1950s book "Birds of Cleveland" updated and republished. They want to also update the "Field Guide to Birds of Cleveland". These books use information compiled in the Kirtland Bird Club's Cleveland Bird Calendar, which has been continuously published for 100 years. They are asking for donations to help defray costs, and Mary Anne passed out forms to all in attendance for this purpose.
5. Tom encouraged members to attend the February field trip to Mill Creek Falls which is one of the highest waterfalls in our state, and is a National Historic Site. Calvary Cemetery will also be visited to observe a pair of Merlins. Steve Cherico will lead this field trip.
6. Program Chairwoman Nancy Howell reminded us of the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count to be held Feb. 14, 15, and 16. Participants enter their sightings at www.birdsource.org. She also asked for volunteers for the Science Olympiad held at Cleveland State Univ. on Feb. 28, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
7. The originally scheduled speaker for February's program was unable to attend due to a family illness. Instead, we had scientists Dwight and Anne Chaser give their presentation on "Avian Population Dynamics Over 60 Years". The Chasers patterned their observation and record keeping on previous work done off and on since the 1950s in a certain 50 acre plot in Brecksville Reservation. Their results showed the decline of some species and the growth of others. This type of scientific data could be helpful in proving the environmental significance of an area.