

MINUTES OF THE WCAS FEBRUARY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society was held at the Rocky River Nature Center on February 1, 2005. President Tom Romito conducted the meeting.

1. Tom opened the meeting with a welcome to all members and visitors. There were 39 people in attendance.
2. Kit read the minutes from the last meeting.
3. Tom read an article on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge being once again in danger of being opened to drilling by congress through inclusion in this year's budget. He passed out letters that could be signed and sent to Ohio's senators by any who wished to do so. The letters will also be on the WCASohio.org website.
2. While he was doing this, Terri read a beautiful passage on the relevance of this pristine natural area to our lives, and also told us that a total of 125 bird species nest in the refuge and many of them regularly spend some time in the Cleveland area also. She then passed out an excellent pamphlet entitled "CATS INDOORS" which details the danger to both cats and the animals they hunt by allowing them to roam freely outdoors.
3. Tom used a flip chart to show how many vacancies need to be filled on next year's board including the following: President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair, field trip chair, conservation chair, advocacy chair. It would be great to have a member for each of these positions, as we are currently doubled up on most because of lack of board members. Remember, many hands make the work lighter.
4. A pamphlet entitled "Count for the Birds" was distributed. It contains information on the 8th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. All members are encouraged to participate from February 18 to 21 by visiting the website www.birdsource.org/gbbc. This is a nation wide conservation effort.
5. Nancy will be taking some WCAS materials to the Science Olympiad at Cleveland State Univ. on March 5. She needs volunteers to help with set up and take down and with grading bird I.D. tests. She reminded us of our upcoming field trip to Holden Arboretum and then introduced our program presenter.
6. Tom Henry of the Ohio Division of Wildlife presented the program "Barn Owls in Ohio". Using slides and video tape, Tom gave all present a thorough education on these beautiful creatures. His lights out simulation of using an owl box monitor gave us an idea of the effort involved in this project. The big surprise was a visit by a real barn owl brought in by Laura Jordan of Medina Raptor Center. "Phantom" was a big hit! Thanks so much Laura.