

WCAS Membership Meeting Minutes 2-7-2006

7:35 pm Called to order by Nancy Howell who commented on the lovely snowy evening Minutes of the January 3, 2006 meeting were read and approved.

1. Kit Birch announced that the TAKE ACTION area of the WCAS website was up and running and would provide links to info on various issues including the Endangered Species Act. Kit volunteered to use her computer to assist those without computers to access the information.
2. Tom Romito reviewed the purposes of the IBA Adoption plan. The purpose is to determine how land use affects birds. Sunday, March 5th will be the Kick Off Event at the RRNC from 1-4 pm. A multi-media show every hour will describe the project.
April 2nd will be the actual training event using Dan's method of point counting.
3. Nancy Howell announced that help is needed for the;
Science Olympiad, Sat Feb. 25th from 8-1, which involves students in grades 4-6 on Bird ID School Days on Wed May 24th, 10-2, with a theme of wetland bird ID She shared info about the Lake Abrams to Lake Isaac Trail via the SWMC wetlands. During the Christmas Bird Count a Virginia Rail was heard there. Great Backyard Bird Count with Cornell will be Feb. 17th to 20th.
Field Trips: Sat. Feb 18th, Killdeer Plains, for short eared owls and raptors
March program speaker change to Dr. Aaron Boone –Coordinator of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. (Dr. Jill Soha is going to Hawaii)
4. Terri Martincic provided colorful presentation of the Birds of the Months-Canvasback and Redhead ID
She announced at the Natural History Museum would be presenting on the Endangered Species Act at 12:30 tomorrow.
Terri will lead the WCAS March 19th field trip to Lewis Road.
5. Marnie Urso, Grassroots Coordinator, Audubon of Ohio, spoke on the Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Compact and plan. The GL Compact seeks to prevent diversion of water from the Great Lakes. Governor Taft supports it. The Restoration Plan is a comprehensive plan approved in December. She stated that 400 Beach closings were necessary in 2005 due to primarily sewage overflows. Great Lakes Advocacy Training will be March 13-15 in Washington DC.
6. Nancy Howell introduced the Program Presenter-Stan Searles, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Ornithologist who presented an informative talk on the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative-“The Best of Bird Conservation”.
Stan announced that because he feels that the IBA adoption is very important to Bird Conservation, and because he feels the WCAS project will serve as a template for others, he advocated and the Cleveland Zoo approved a \$500 grant in support of the IBA Adoption project. Following the heady applause, Stan stated that the baseline data for the RR watershed is important. However, conservation is about people who care and connect and can be part of something. He advised all in attendance to support and participate in the process to assure its success.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claudia Anders, Recording Secretary