

MINUTES OF THE WCAS JANUARY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society was held at the Rocky River Nature Center on January 5, 2005. President Tom Romito conducted the meeting.

1. Tom started the meeting by recognizing and welcoming all guests present. Tom asked each one why they had come and thanked them for attending.
2. Kit read the October minutes because she had not attended in November due to election volunteering.
3. Tom informed the members that he and Mary Anne will not continue as officers next year (2005-2006), but will stay on as advisors to those succeeding them. He asked that anyone thinking of possibly becoming a board officer next year to let him know, and to also come to our current board meetings so that they may see what is involved. We are a friendly little group and welcome newcomers.
4. Terri explained our new idea of a nature magazine exchange which involves members bringing in their old magazines to share with anyone who would like to take and keep them. They will be placed on the back table and all are encouraged to participate monthly.
5. We were sorry to hear that Betty Green had an accident while skiing in Colorado, and WCAS is sending her a get well card.
6. The Christmas Bird Count was held on December 26, and volunteers braved over a foot of snow and below freezing temperatures to observe 73 species in our designated area. The Christmas Bird Count is at least 100 years old and is needed to track and document population fluctuations, waxing and waning species and environmental changes over the years. Don Altemus, retired senior naturalist at RRNC, was coordinator of this year's bird count.
7. Nancy Howell informed us of the latest happenings in the Pale Male saga which include the destruction of his nest, the public outcry against this, and the subsequent attempt to put the nest back in place. She also informed us that the Ohio Division of Wildlife requested our WCAS patch for their district headquarters in Akron and she sent it to them. Lastly, she reminded everyone to dress for the weather for our Jan. 15 field trip to the Cleveland Lakefront.
8. Author and illustrator Lawrence Hohman's program "Wildlife by Numbers" gave members a chance to express our artistic abilities as we worked with colored pencils to turn an outline into a vibrantly colored Pileated Woodpecker. He also brought along prints from his latest project on plants, and had his previous books available for sale. Alice Mitchell was the lucky winner of a beautiful framed picture done by Mr. Hohman. We all appreciated seeing detailed views of birds and plants through the eyes of an artist such as Mr. Hohman.