

WCAS Membership Meeting Minutes, January 3, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Nancy Howell.

1. Nancy Howell welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year. She also shared that the balmy weather had brought thoughts of spring and a lady bug in the auditorium, a skunk in the parking lot, wood duck sightings, wooly bears and dandelion!
2. The minutes from the December, 2005 meeting were read and approved.
3. Mary Anne Romito announced that the January field trip will be a trip to the land near The Wilds with sister chapter, Mohican Audubon Society. Car pooling sign up sheet is on the back table. She explained that one of the target species was short ear owls, which emerge at dusk. Therefore, an after dark return is anticipated.
4. Nancy thanked everyone for participating in the Christmas Bird Count. 69 species were recorded and, over 50 people participated. Unusual this year was the fact that Lake Erie was not frozen over, so those species could not be sighted from land. Of significance were 1 Roughed leg hawk, 1 Merlin, 13 Pied-billed Grebes, 20 Red Breasted Nuthatches, and a Virginia Rail (Lake Abrams)
5. Christmas Bird Count, 2006 will be held on Saturday, December 30, 2006.
6. Kit Birch encouraged everyone to assist in the IBA adoption process by adopting an area on the East Branch of the Rocky River to record what they see weekly.
7. Terri Martincic introduced the Bird of the Month-the Red Breasted Nuthatch. She stated that she has found them consistently at the Lewis Rd. Riding ring and that they like peanuts in your feeders. She played an excellent recording of their calls.
8. Terri shared that she had written a personal Thank You letter to Senator DeWine for voting against the drilling in the ANWR. She explained to the group the current fragile situation in the ANWR.
9. Terri shared about the proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act. She had obtained information which was on the back table for anyone interested.
10. Kit Birch shared information regarding the possible changes in the Wilderness Designation in Montana per a letter from Ernest Scherzer, former treasurer of WCAS.

11. Nancy Howell announced the need for volunteers to help with the Science Olympiad for 8-10 year olds at CSU on Saturday, February 25, 2006, 8 am Rhodes Tower. Parking will be reimbursed by WCAS.
12. Tom Romito announced that the Committee Chairpersons for the IBA project will meet January 16<sup>th</sup> at Tom and Mary Anne's House, 7 pm.
13. Nancy Howell announced the program in February 7th will be the on Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative with Stan Searles speaking.
14. Nancy Howell introduced the program speaker for tonight's meeting- David Dvorak, Naturalist from Brecksville Reservation, and a plant specialist. His presentation was entitled Ecosystem Challenge. He shared the impact that non-native species have on the birds, butterflies and other species particularly in regard to the Prairie Lands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claudia Anders