

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
Board Minutes

Monday, January 24, 2011, 6 p.m. at Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio

Present: Gayle Albers, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Scott Rush, Stan Searles, Diane Sigler

Guests: Rick and Jay Ryan

1. Bird Trail at the Zoo:

Rick Ryan came to meet with WCAS to finalize the details of his Eagle Scout project of building bird nest boxes for the bird trail at the zoo. Nancy suggested ten each of five kinds of box. WCAS will finalize types and numbers of boxes and send to Rick as soon as possible. Preferred wood is cedar. Rick will approach donors for materials. He will draft a letter for Tom's signature to help in securing donations. Adults will cut the wood, and scouts will assemble. Tom will write a letter to help in securing donations. Stan will ask for donations of poles, baffles, Purple Martin houses. WCAS will send acknowledgments at the end. The board thanked Rick and his dad Jay for taking on this project.

2. Finances:

Nancy reported that the treasury has \$9,434.99. Silent Auction netted \$163. Annual appeal grossed \$1,303. with net profit of \$434.80. Cans for Conservation effort at the Zoo was a surprise: \$212.50.

3. Important Bird Area

- a. Priorities after meeting about GIS with Gil from Cleveland State University. We want to:
  - i. Have GIS correlate birds on map
  - ii. Add vegetation data
  - iii. Publish results in a refereed journal
  - iv. Final report with three goals
    1. Science
    2. General public
    3. Publish protocols for other Audubon groups
- b. Update of Rocky River IBA data: Scott is doing quality control.
- c. Final IBA report:
  - i. Diane is no longer being paid by Metroparks

- ii. Gayle may be able to secure the help of a graphic designer
- iii. Goal to finalize in August
- iv. Will have a committee to edit.
- v. Rest of discussion tabled. Will take up at next board meeting.

4. Event participation:

- a. Cleveland International Film Festival
  - i. "Feathered Cocaine"
  - ii. Chance to speak to the audience before the film
  - iii. May have a table
  - iv. 12 tickets
  - v. Tom will speak
  
- b. February collaborative event at Dike 14
  - i. Feb 20, 2011 Results will go into the Great Backyard Bird Count. Tom, Nancy and Scott will work on this
  
- c. Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair
  - i. Tuesday, March 15. Penny will make certificates
  - ii. Board voted to give two \$50. Special Science Fair Awards
  - iii. Gayle, Scott, Penny and possibly Dave LeGallee
  - iv. North Coast Nature Festival April 16, 2011. Liz has requested a table
  - v. Buzzard Day: Tom has been in touch with Martha Catherwood
  - vi. Updating the tri-fold display boards: Terri and Mary Anne have some new photos. Mary Anne will make up some bullet points to stick on the board.
  - vii. Ultrawalk/Ultrabird: May 26, 27, 28, 2011. Stan will walk 100 miles in three days. He will be at Buzzard's Roost at 6 a.m. on each of the three days. Mary Anne will lead birders in a different reservation on each day: Hinckley, Mill Stream, and Rocky River. On Saturday other walkers will join Stan to do the final 5 miles.

5. Cleveland Metroparks

- a. Strategic Plan Meetings at Rocky River Nature Center, Canalway Center and North Chagrin Nature Center
  - i. Liz, Nancy and Tom will attend at RRNC
  - ii. Stan and Tom will go to Canalway Center
- b. Point Counts – are we participating
  - i. Lake to Lake wetlands counts: Nancy and Liz
  - ii. There are 400 points that Metroparks would like to have surveyed. Protocol would be up to WCAS. The points are in all reservations, not just along Rocky River IBA. Possibility of picking some within RRIBA but outside of forest habitat and doing one visit. Who would coordinate this? What about private land outside of parks?

6. Minigrant Funding for Birds in your Neighborhood:

- a. Possibly for Bird trail, or a Celebrate Urban Birds event
- b. Gayle proposed a Chimney Swift event in Berea. She will write a grant proposal.

7. What can Bird Surveys Tell us? As the hour was late, Scott proposed we take this up at another time.

8. The next board meeting will be Monday, February 21, 2011 at 6 p.m. at Sandwich Delites in Berea, Ohio. Agenda will be limited so we can resolve issues surrounding the IBA Final Report.