

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Minutes Monday, May 23, 2011

Present: Gayle Albers, Kit Birch, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Scott Rush, Stan Searles

1. Finances: Nancy Howell reported \$11,221.21 in the treasury. Donations have come in memory of Dave LeGallee.
2. Wetland Survey for Cleveland Metroparks, at Lake-to-Lake sites: Liz Clingman and Nancy Howell have done these points. Tim Colborn and Bill Deininger have volunteered to help with this.
3. Update on Bird trail and Zoo and Nest Boxes: Gayle Albers reported 49 boxes in all. Twenty scouts and families helped out. Eagle Scout Rick Ryan and helpers will install remaining boxes May 31. Stan Searles and Gayle are arranging for purchase of poles and flanges. \$2,000. Some boxes will need taller poles and concrete bases. These will be installed at a later date. WCAS will send a letter indicating that Rick Ryan has finished his part of the project. Cornell's NestWatch provided training for 20 volunteer monitors.
4. Newsletter for August-October 2011. This issue will go to all national members. Kit Birch has a busy summer, so Mary Anne and Tom will produce the newsletter. Gayle Albers will write about the bird trail at the Zoo.
5. Ultrawalk and Ultrabird: Penny O'Connor will be at Park Ops at 2:30 to sign in five-mile walkers. Stan Searles has contacted mayors and Representatives Dennis Kucinich and Betty Sutton.
6. Ash Distribution: Scott Rush reported that Terry Robison (Cleveland Metroparks) has worked to inventory live and dying ash trees throughout several Metroparks. The hope is to relate the forecasted change in the distribution of this tree, through mortality caused by the exotic and invasive emerald ash borer, to changes in bird diversity and demographics (key among these species will be woodpeckers). To help make this study possible Terry has asked if WCAS would be willing to coordinate bird surveys throughout several Metroparks during 2012. Stan noted that the value of the 5-year study will be to answer this kind of question in the future, and we do not know what questions may arise.
7. IBA final report progress: Tom and Mary Anne Romito have supplied board members with flash drives with the interim report and photos.
8. Walk at West Creek: On October 9, Rich Kassouf will lead a bird walk at West Creek, in honor of the late Dave LeGallee.

9. Field Trips: A bonus field trip at Brooklyn Oxbow will be led by Mary Anne and Tom Romito, Sunday June 10, 2011, 7:30 a.m.
10. Phone calls: several reported on contacts with members. Tom encouraged everyone to make the calls. Members are friendly and happy to talk about WCAS.
11. Next meeting: Monday, June 20, 2011 at Sandwich Delites, Berea. OH.