

IBA WORKSHOP SUMMARY

On Sunday, March 12, from 9:30 a.m. from noon, eight members of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's IBA Workforce met at Brecksville Nature Center for a workshop with Dan Petit of Cleveland Metroparks on how to conduct point counts. This purpose of the workshop was to prepare the workforce to train people who have signed up for point count training on April 2 at Rocky River Nature Center. About 70 people have signed up for point count training.

Dan and the workforce members began the workshop by discussing the goals and objectives of the IBA project. They continued by refining the criteria for choosing bird survey stations. The most intense portion of the workshop was a discussion of point count protocol. The purpose of the protocols will be to ensure that the quality of data collected at the point count stations is not compromised due to variation among observers who conduct the survey. Then we discussed forms, procedures, and equipment we will use to conduct the survey. Finally, we discussed methods we will use to screen volunteers who want to be observers and recorders.

The workforce will have another workshop on March 20 at the Cleveland Zoo to finalize arrangements for the point count training that will be conducted on April 2. We plan to conduct followup training on April 8-10 for people who cannot attend training on April 2.