



July 29th, 2015

### **OOS Endorsement of the American Bird Conservancy “Cat Indoors” Program**

As a society dedicated to Ohio’s birds and bird watchers, the Ohio Ornithological Society has vested interests in all environmental issues affecting our birds and our community. One issue that research and increased public debate has made more prominent over time is the issue of whether domestic cats should be allowed unsupervised and unconstrained out of doors.

Although this issue is divisive because, while we are all passionate about birds and bird habitat, many of us are equally passionate in our feelings for our feline friends, we feel that as a “bird” organization the extent of documented impact of domestic cats on birdlife compels us to take a position.

Therefore as an organization, the OOS endorses the “Cats Indoors” position of the American Bird Conservancy in whole and without specific comment.

Our conservation committee extensively reviewed the “Cats Indoors” program’s policy and materials (available at their website, <http://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/>), and found this program to be based on the best available science and in the best interests of wild birds.

We understand that not all of our membership will agree with every aspect of “Cats Indoors” and it is not our intent to alienate those who may support Trap, Neuter, Return programs, or “barn” cats, or simply allowing pets the freedom to wander. We have a profound respect for the love for cats these positions are based upon - but as a society of birdwatchers concerned with the preservation of birdlife, we have an obligation to take a position for the birds. The “Cats Indoors” program meets this criterion and provides a complete program and excellent resource materials.

We encourage all who love wild birds to review these materials as we individually decide our thoughts on this issue, and hope that our community will continue to evolve in regards to this issue in a manner respectful to the opinions of all and in the best interests of both domestic cats and wild birds.

With Respect,

*The OOS Board of Directors*