

Conservation Planning and Research Committee

Meeting Minutes

333D Kottman Hall

March 29, 2012, 10 am – 2pm

Attendees: Amanda Conover (OBCI), Paul Rodewald (OSU), Katrina Schultes (US Forest Service, Wayne National Forest), Cotton Randall (ODNR- Division of Forestry) John Watts (Columbus MetroParks), Ken Duren (ODNR- Division of Wildlife), Dave Sherman (ODNR- Division of Wildlife), Nathan Stricker (ODNR- Division of Wildlife), Mike Reynolds (ODNR- Division of Wildlife), Bob Gates (OSU), Tom Bain (Ohio Ornithological Society), Michael Kravitz (EPA), Matt Shumar (Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, OSU)

A. Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative Background

Amanda Conover presented a brief history of OBCI and a summary of past and current projects. Please contact Amanda (obcicoordinator@gmail.com) for a copy of this presentation.

B. Overview of Committee Goals and Objectives

Mike Reynolds introduced the goals for the committee (available at www.obcinet.org/committees/planning.php), and emphasized that a focus for the meeting would be to develop specific objectives for each goal and to discuss the formation of subcommittees.

C. All-Bird Conservation Plan Background and Summary

Paul Rodewald presented a brief history of the development of the All-bird Conservation Plan and a summary of its goals. Please contact Paul (rodewald.2@osu.edu) for a copy of this presentation.

D. Discussion of Improving Plan Utility

1. **Review of survey responses:** Amanda Conover presented a summary of the responses to a survey of the committee on the All-bird Plan. Overall, responders felt that the Plan is an effective tool for bird conservation in Ohio, but needs to incorporate goals from the Appalachian Mountains JV and revise language regarding early successional habitat in Ohio. Please contact Amanda for a copy of this presentation.
2. **Development of Committee Objectives:** The following objectives were developed by the committee to improve the utility of the Plan.

1. **Develop an executive summary document of plan highlights** (maps, tables, etc) for a broader audience. Adapt this document for web access on www.obcinet.org.

Action Item: Amanda Conover will post plan chapters, figures, and tables individually on OBCI website. (This has already been completed, available at <http://www.obcinet.org/plans/allbird.php>).

Action Item: Amanda Conover will develop a 5-10 page executive summary for the Plan. Committee members will review and provide edits on executive summary. Targeted completion: prior to next committee meeting (June/July 2012).

Action Item: The committee will develop a list of specific “management action items” summarizing plan recommendations for each habitat type to be incorporated into the Implementation Plan and Executive Summary. Targeted completion: prior to next committee meeting (June/July 2012). Committee members interested in leading this process for a particular habitat type should contact Amanda Conover.

2. Consult with Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture representatives to **incorporate AMJV habitat and population goals for BCR 28 into the Plan.**

Action Item: Mike Reynolds will contact Todd Fearer (AMJV) about attending the next CPRC meeting to present updates on AMJV progress and plans, and to discuss how these may be incorporated into the OBCI plan. Target date for meeting is June or July.

3. Examine priority areas designated by partner organizations to **develop OBCI focal areas with a biological basis.**

Action Item: Amanda Conover will gather focal areas from partner organizations (Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, USFWS, Audubon Society, ODNR Division of Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy) and identify areas of high overlap. These areas will be presented to committee members for review and suggestions of management priorities.

4. Work with partners (LCCs, JVs) to encourage the **production of finer scale maps and analysis within OBCI focal areas and update of statewide maps** using current data.

Action Item: Mike Reynolds will contact Todd Fearer (AMJV) and Amanda Conover will contact Greg Soulliere (Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Region JV) for updates on JV progress and plans. Targeted completion: prior to next committee meeting (June/July 2012).

5. Utilize existing stewardship datasets (Ducks Unlimited, Conservation Biology Institute, State of Ohio) to **examine ownership within OBCI focal areas and across habitat types.**

Action Item: Amanda Conover will seek assistance from committee member(s) with GIS access and experience to complete this objective within the next year. Interested committee members should contact Amanda at obcicoordinator@gmail.com or (614) 432-8489.

E. Discussion of Plan Implementation

1. **Development of Committee Objectives:** The committee decided that it is **too early to set specific objectives** for plan implementation. Updates from regional organizations (JVs, Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership) are needed before objectives can be solidified.

Action Item: Amanda Conover will contact Katie Koch to discuss progress of and plans for the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership, and see if she would attend a future CPRC meeting.

Action Item: Committee members interested in helping to develop or serving on a Coordinated Monitoring subcommittee should contact Amanda Conover for more information.

F. Committee Membership and Leadership

1. Suggestions for additional members: The committee suggested that the following individuals be contacted to serve on the CPRC:
 - a. Mark DeBrock (NRCS)
 - b. Charlie Payne (Pheasants Forever)
 - c. Kraig McPeck (USFWS)
 - d. Steve Matthews (OSU)
2. Chairperson: Mike Reynolds will be stepping down at committee chair following the next committee meeting. Individuals interested in serving as committee chair or co-chair should contact Mike Reynolds.

3. Recorder: There were no volunteers to fill this position at the meeting. It was decided that if there were no volunteers before the next meeting, the recorder position will be filled on a rotating basis by a committee member at the start of each meeting. Individuals interested in serving as committee recorder should contact Amanda Conover.

G. Additional Comments and Action Item Summary

1. Please send any editorial comments on the Plan to Amanda Conover as soon as possible so they can be incorporated into the plan update.
2. If you are interested in serving as committee chairperson or co-chairperson, please contact Mike Reynolds for more information (Mike.Reynolds@dnr.state.oh.us).
3. If you are interested in serving as committee recorder, please contact Amanda Conover for more information (obcicoordinator@gmail.com).
4. Committee members interested in participating in a working group to provide GIS assistance on identifying stewardship within OBCI focal areas should contact Amanda Conover (obcicoordinator@gmail.com).
5. If you are interested in helping to develop or serving on a Coordinated Monitoring or Western Lake Erie Basin Coordinated Management subcommittee, please contact Amanda Conover.
6. Committee members interested in helping with the development of a list of specific “management action items” summarizing Plan recommendations should contact Amanda Conover. Leaders are needed for each habitat type (wetlands, forests, grasslands, shrublands)