

**Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative
Coordinating Council Meeting
July 10, 2012**

Location: Westerville Public Library, Meeting Room A

Attendees: Amanda Conover (Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative), Dan Petit (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation), Kristy Monk (AEP), Steven Lee (US Army Corp of Engineers), Julie Shieldcastle (Black Swamp Bird Observatory), Rebecca Rose (Columbus Zoo and Aquarium), Mike Reynolds (ODNR Division of Wildlife), Michael Kravitz (Ohio EPA), Cotton Randall (ODNR Division of Forestry), Chad Smith (ODNR Division of Recreation and Parks), Mike Watson (Ohio Bluebird Society), Greg Smith (Ohio Biological Survey), Dave Horn (Ohio Biological Survey), Gary Comer (OFWMA), Craig Hicks (OFWMA), Tom Bain (Ohio Ornithological Society), Paul Rodewald (OSU, School of Environment and Natural Resources), Larry Visser (Ruffed Grouse Society), Pete Whan (The Nature Conservancy), Katrina Schultes (Wayne National Forest), Anne Balogh (Grange Insurance Audubon Center)

A: OBCI History

Paul Rodewald presented a brief history of OBCI and a summary of our vision and goals. Please contact Paul (rodewald.2@osu.edu) for a copy of this presentation.

B: Review of Annual Work Plan and Update on Current Projects

Amanda Conover presented a summary of the Program Coordinator's Annual Work Plan and updates on current OBCI projects. A summary of this presentation can be viewed at <http://www.obcinet.org/home/OBCIAnnualReport.pdf>.

C: Update on Conservation Planning and Research Committee Progress

Mike Reynolds presented a brief history of the development of the All-bird Conservation Plan and a summary of the goals of the CPRC (available at www.obcinet.org/committees/planning.php).

Action Item: The next meeting of the CPRC will be held on **Tuesday, July 24 at 2pm** at the District 1 Division of Wildlife office at 1500 Dublin Rd in Columbus. Todd Fearer, Science Coordinator of the App Mt JV, will join us by 3 pm to give a presentation on the App Mts JV implementation plan, JV goals/objectives/priorities, and discuss bird population and habitat goals for the Ohio portion of the BCR. If you are interested in attending this meeting or participating on the committee, please contact Mike (Mike.Reynolds@dnr.state.oh.us).

D: Presentations from OBCI Partners

Tom Bain (Conservation Chair, Ohio Ornithological Society, bainnature@insight.rr.com)

Tom introduced OOS's mission and conservation projects, including their work with American Kestrels across the state. He also discussed the Ohio Kestrel Partnership Blog, which includes research on kestrels, plans for boxes, and

information on OOS's existing Kestrel works. Please contact Tom if you are interested in viewing or posting to the blog.

Anne Balogh (Grange Insurance Audubon Center)

Anne provided a background on the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and its programming. She also discussed National Audubon's conservation priorities, and how a partnership with OBCI for Lights Out Columbus fit into these priorities.

Dan Petit (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

Dan spoke on NFWF's history and grant programs, as well as the use of business planning for non-profit organizations. His presentation, Conservation Planning: What Donors Expect, is available at http://www.obcinet.org/home/DanPetit_ConservationPlanning.pdf

E: OBCI Business

1. Revision of Coordinating Council Operating Procedures

The following revisions to the bylaws were approved by a vote of the Council:

3. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee and the Program Coordinator will collaborate to develop the Program Coordinator's annual work plan (*addition*).

The Executive Committee will provide oversight of the Program Coordinator activities and OBCI operating budgets (*addition*).

c) An Executive Committee will consist of all committee chairs (with the exception of chairs of Ad Hoc committees), the OBCI Chair and Vice-Chair, and up to 3 additional committee members (non-chairpersons) to be appointed by the Chair (*revision from 2 additional members*).

4. Program Coordinator (*all additions*)

The Program Coordinator's duties will be described in the annual work plan, collaboratively developed with the Executive Committee.

The Program Coordinator will report on progress on objectives and goals from the annual work plan at quarterly meetings of the Executive Committee and annual meetings of the Coordinating Council.

The Program Coordinator will assist Committee Chairs in selecting committee members and establishing committee objectives.

The Program Coordinator will work with committees to select appropriate projects in support of the committee's objectives, with guidance and oversight from the Executive Committee.

5. Standing Committees

The following standing committees will be maintained under OBCI: Conservation Planning & Research, and Outreach & Education. The Executive Committee may establish Ad Hoc committees (*revision from 5 standing committees*).

2. Review of Existing Coordinating Council Members

The following groups were proposed for addition to the Coordinating Council:

-Aullwood Audubon Center, Ohio Park and Recreation Association,
Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture,
Cincinnati Zoo, Toledo Zoo, Ohio Biological Survey

Paul Rodewald recommended that the Executive Council review the expectations of membership on the Coordinating Council before any groups be added or removed from the Council. A vote on any changes to the expectations of Coordinating Council members or council membership will be conducted via an online poll.

3. Funding for OBCI (Structuring of dues collection)

The Council agreed it would be appropriate to begin providing guidelines for voluntary dues collection from OBCI members. Suggested dues amounts will be structured differently for coordinating council and signatory members, and will be based on amounts previously developed by OBCI in 2008. The Executive Council will review the dues structure and will propose the structure to Coordinating Council for online voting.

4. Formation of Outreach/Education Committee

Action Item: Anyone who is interested in participating on OBCI's Outreach/Education Committee should contact Amanda Conover (obcicoordinator@gmail.com, (614) 432-8489). The committee's goals will be reviewed by the new chairperson, but can be viewed preliminarily at <http://www.obcinet.org/committees/outreach.php>

5. Future OBCI Workshops

The Council agreed that OBCI's role in hosting workshops or conferences should be as a partner with an organization already hosting such events. OBCI could provide content, but should not take on the role of event planning due to time required from Program Coordinator to accomplish this. Larry Visser suggested that the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative's annual conference could act as a model for OBCI.

6. Future Coordinating Council Meetings

Attendees were asked to provide feedback on the meeting and provide suggestions for future meetings. Dave Horn felt the outside speakers were an excellent addition and provided some perspective on OBCI's role in conservation. Gary Comer suggested the business items should be handled by the Executive Committee, with the Coordinating Council present for just the summary of OBCI's progress. Julie Shieldcastle and Paul Rodewald said they felt it was important to maintain the input of the Coordinating Council on OBCI's business items. The Council agreed to continue meeting once annually, although Chad Smith suggested that meetings should be scheduled during the winter for ease of scheduling.

7. Discussion of Development of Position Statements for Environmental Issues

It was decided that given the nature of OBCI as an organization built on diverse partnerships, OBCI should avoid developing or publicizing positions on environmental issues. Individuals contacting OBCI regarding such issues will be directed to speak with OBCI partners directly, or other outlets with an advocacy role, such as American Bird Conservancy.

Katrina Schultes suggested that OBCI could act to alert its members to opportunities for advocacy, such as supporting funding for wildlife conservation.

8. Election of OBCI Chair and Vice-Chair Positions

Greg Smith (gasmith@uakron.edu) was elected to replace Paul Rodewald as OBCI chair.

Greg Smith is a Biologist at the University of Akron and Executive Director of the Ohio Biological Survey. Greg received a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Florida, an M.S. in Biological Sciences with a minor in Statistics from Mississippi State University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Oklahoma. His research interests focus on Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Biology. More specifically, Greg's work investigates how and why populations are structured across space and time, including the influence of human-dominated landscapes on native species. The Smith Lab is also interested in patterns of biodiversity and how that diversity might be explained and preserved. Greg has mentored a number of graduate and undergraduate students and has taught 15 different university-level courses (among them: General Ecology, Conservation Biology, Ornithology, and Wildlife Management). Research projects include: investigations of the impact of "biotic homogenization" on the structure of vertebrate communities; studies of long-term small mammal population dynamics; the role of black-tailed prairie dogs in structuring avian communities within the Great Plains ecosystem; various base-line inventories of birds and mammals at National Park Service sites; and an analysis of winter habitat use by American Kestrels. Current students in the lab are studying home range size and space use of coyotes in the urbanizing landscape of the Cuyahoga Valley and the impacts of fragmentation on fledgling sex ratios of Hooded Warblers. Greg is married with two children and is a certifiable geek.

Julie Shieldcastle was re-elected as Vice-chair.

Julie is one of the founding members of Black Swamp Bird Observatory. She was the Executive Director from 1992- 2008. She has a M.S. Degree specializing in Avian Migration from the University of Southern Mississippi and over 23 years experience in songbird migration and breeding birds of NW Ohio. She is a North American Banding Council Certified Trainer. She is one of the original members of the Ohio Partners in Flight, now named Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative.

9. Discussion of Partnership and Project Ideas

Action Item: Please contact Amanda Conover (obcicoordinator@gmail.com, (614) 432-8489) with any ideas for projects or partnerships.