

OHIO BIRD



Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes- 12/13/05 Kottman Hall, Ohio State University

CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

The following members were in attendance: Lynda Andrews (US Forest Service), Tom Berger (ODNR- Forestry), Lynn Boydelatour (ODNR- Parks), Ron Huffman (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Jeff Brown (Ohio Bird Banding Association), Suzanne Cardinal (OBCI), Bernie Daniel (Ohio Bluebird Association), Scott Hull (ODNR- Wildlife), Larry Mitchell (League of Ohio Sportsmen), Kevin Hils (Columbus Zoo), John Ritzenthaler (Audubon Ohio), Paul Rodewald (OBCI/OSU), Stan Searles (Cleveland Zoo), Jason Steckel (Pheasants Forever), Bill Whan (Ohio Ornithological Society), Pete Whan (The Nature Conservancy).

The meeting started with introductions of members in attendance and a brief update from Paul Rodewald about changes to council members. Audrey Mayer (EPA) resigned from the Council as she will be leaving Ohio for a job in Finland. There was a brief discussion about whether Bernie Daniel will fill both the EPA vacancy and serve as a member for the Ohio Bluebird Association. Bill Hunyadi retired from the Ruffed Grouse Society and RGS is seeking a replacement. Don Karas retired from ODNR- Forestry and has been replaced by Tom Berger. Jeff Brown has replaced Tim Tolford for the Ohio Bird Banding Association. OBCI thanks all of these people for their contributions over the past two years and welcomes new Council members!

The council made suggestions for other groups that could be added to the council, including: the National Wild Turkey Foundation, Quail Unlimited, and Ohio Falconers. Paul Rodewald provided brief update on OBCI efforts over the last 2 years and discussed the search for funds to fill the OBCI coordinator position (see Budget). Suzanne Cardinal was hired and started working for OBCI in mid-November. She is based at the Ohio State University and can be reached at 614-292-6544 or via email at cardinal.11@osu.edu.

The council discussed a change in operating procedure in regards to the current term ending for Paul Rodewald as Chair. The council supported the retention of Paul Rodewald as Chair. A two-year term starting in December 2005 was agreed upon. Lynn Boydelatour suggested linking the term of office for the Chair to the period of the grant supporting the coordinator position. Paul suggesting having a co-chair position and the council decided to leave that open as an option if the need arises. Also, if two people are needed Stan Searles suggested hiring another part-time person at OSU.

Committee Updates

John Ritzenthaler updated the group on the December 2005 Bird-based Recreation and Outreach Committee meeting. The committee changed its goals and formed an action plan for the next 6 months. Goals of the committee are as follows:

- 1) Cross-promote International Migratory Bird Day by sending out a poster with information about IMBD related activities across the state. This will be done by April for distribution.
- 2) Promote birding trails within the state by coming up with a map of all birding trails for distribution.
- 3) In the Fall of 2006, come up with a brochure that can be downloaded and sent out to partners.

Council members liked these goals and suggested having OBCI representatives at large IMBD events for promotion. Paul suggested talking with an OSU grad student (Nichole Braun) about potential assistance in development of signage for some birding trails. Lynn Boydelatour suggested working with OSU Extension; they are working to establish a volunteer naturalist training program to coordinate volunteer efforts. Stan Searles suggested putting together a packet filled with 'freebies' to hand out at IMBD events and having a news release or public service announcement to help communicate efforts. There was discussion about the Outreach Committee title and it was decided that Suzanne and Paul would come up with names and run by the committee. The committee would decide when they would next meet, but has not set a date as of yet.

Scott Hull updated the council on efforts by the joint Habitat Assessment /Management and Research/Monitoring Committee. The committee met on March 17, 2005 but was unable to have a second meeting in November 2005 because of scheduling conflicts among members. They will meet on January 13th. Scott distributed the revised goals for the committee:

1. Create inventory and executive summary of partner agency bird conservation plans.
2. Develop map showing boundaries and "commonality" of partner agency bird conservation plans.
3. Regularly review bird population monitoring efforts in Ohio and report gaps in existing efforts.
4. Provide lead role in writing Ohio All-Bird Conservation Plan.
5. Research and Habitat committee should be structured by habitat (forest, wetland, grassland, urban). This structure will be useful for purposes of contributing to the All-bird plan.
6. Identify future bird research, monitoring, and conservation activities that can benefit partner organizations (e.g. Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II).
7. Review continental bird conservation plans (e.g. the Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan) and associated population estimates for Ohio. Incorporate findings into Ohio All-Bird Conservation Plan.
8. Continue to meet jointly and possibly rename group to Scientific Management Committee.

Paul and Suzanne will come up with suggested names for the joint committees and the members will decide on a new name at the next meeting.

Ohio All-Bird Conservation Plan

The Ohio All Bird Plan was discussed. Paul and Suzanne will head up writing the plan with contributions made by the Executive Committee and other interested individuals. Wherever possible, the information for the plan will be taken from other plans already written with inventories of current research being conducted. It will include research and monitoring needs, some habitat recommendations and information on bird population trends. Council members expressed interest in reviewing the plan and suggested sending out a form for comments. The timeline for the plan is to have a draft of at least several sections by March 20th to present at the Partners in Flight (PIF) meeting and a complete first draft by July 1st. OBCI will meet with PIF at a location in Ohio to discuss the all-bird plan. This meeting is intended to generate feedback and recommendations from PIF on the All-bird Plan. All council members will be invited to attend.

OBCI Budget

The OBCI budget was discussed with the focus on securing funding for the future. To date, OBCI has received \$25,000 from ODNR-Division of Wildlife, \$5,000 from The Nature Conservancy, and \$2,500 from Ducks Unlimited. With help from John Ritzenthaler and Julie Shieldcastle, Paul submitted a proposal to the George Gund Foundation for \$15,000 over two years (a decision is expected in January 2006). Other funding sources that were suggested for additional support included the Columbus Zoo, corporate sponsorship such as Honda, American Electric Power, and other groups on the council. Tentative commitments for funds in FY 2007 have come from ODNR-Division of Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy provided that OBCI demonstrates success in achieving its goals.

Role of OBCI Coordinator

Council members gave their input on the roles of the OBCI coordinator and offered the following suggestions:

- Learn about the conservation community in Ohio, and council organizations.
- Look for commonalities between different groups for partnership opportunities.
- Schedule and coordinate future meetings.
- Provide better organizational memory for the group by keeping track of OBCI information.
- Attend all committee and council meetings and bring records to council meetings.
- Keep the committees and Coordinating Council focused and on track to meet goals.

2nd All-bird Workshop

It was agreed that the 2nd All-bird Workshop would take place next fall. Council members came up with suggestions for objectives of the workshop. Some ideas that were suggested included: unveiling and discussing the All-Bird Plan, showing conservation success stories by leading trips to nearby restoration/conservation areas, having a banding demonstration, having OSU graduate students present talks

on Ohio research, and having outdoor activities. Members suggested having the meeting near Lake Erie or at Shawnee State Park, but it was agreed that price is an important consideration. Paul and Suzanne will take a lead role in organizing the meeting but would like others to volunteer to help. Jim McCormac was suggested as an additional person to ask for additional help because of his involvement in the first workshop.

OBCI Website

The OBCI website was discussed. Currently, the website is hosted and updated (and designed by) Tim Tolford of the Ohio Bird Banding Association. The website has served us well as the 'face' of OBCI and Tim has devoted an extensive amount of time towards the effort. Now that OBCI has hired Suzanne as full-time Coordinator, there is a greater need to build and expand the website and make it more of a "tool" for bird conservation. In addition, with OBCI becoming far more active there will be a need to do frequent website updates. To make these changes Paul and Suzanne are planning to meet with a web-designer in May or June (depending on web-designer's schedule) to update the website. Suzanne will take over as webmaster following the re-design of the website to facilitate quick updates and changes as needed. A special thanks to Tim Tolford for all his hard work and dedication over the last two years!

Newsletter

OBCI will produce a newsletter. Council members suggested sending the newsletter when needed or as a quarterly update. Information on future meetings should be included. Submissions from other council members could be included.

Wind Power in Ohio

Megan Seymour of USFWS presented information on the Ohio Wind Working Group. The Ohio Wind Working Group is generating material to educate companies that want to set up Wind farms in Ohio. They have developed a map that shows Important Bird Areas, federally endangered species locations, riparian areas and buffers around known migration stop-over sites. With this information, companies could place wind farms where there would be less of a threat to wildlife. The working group meets every other month and the public is welcome to attend. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

Feb. 17, Columbus

April 7, Columbus

June 5, Pittsburgh (at American Wind Energy Alliance Annual Conference)

August 11, Cleveland

November 17, Columbus or Toledo

Columbus meetings are held at the Riffe Center from 10am-3pm. If you would like to here more about the group, feel free to join their listserve by contacting Bill Spratley of Green Energy Ohio at: bill@greenenergyohio.org. The listserve will provide a weekly update through email. Megan Seymour's email address: Megan_Seymour@fws.gov and the Ohio Wind Working Group website: www.ohiowind.org.