

**OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE  
COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date and Time:** July 13, 2004; 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Old Worthington Library, 614-645-2626, 820 High Street, Worthington, Ohio.  
Luncheon provided by Audubon Ohio.

**Coordinating Council Members Present:** Lynda Andrews, Steve Barry, Lynn Boydelatour, Dan Frisk, John Hollback, Scott Hull, Jim Inglis, Don Karas, Audrey Mayer, Jim McCormac, John Ritzenthaler, Paul Rodewald (Chair), Dave Scott, Stan Searles, Julie Shieldcastle (Vice-Chair), Tim Tolford, Bill Whan, Pete Whan.

**Agenda:**

- I. Overview of OBCI progress since October 2003
- II. Operating Structure of OBCI
  - A. Coordinating Council
  - B. Initiative Coordinator
  - C. Formation of Sub-Committees
- III. Fall 2004 All-bird Conservation Meeting
- IV. OBCI Short-term Goals/Projects
- V. OBCI Operating funds
- VI. OBCI Logo
- VII. OBCI Web Site

**Introductory Comments:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rodewald at 9:20 a.m. Introductions were made and a Coordinating Council address/contact list was circulated to edit for any corrections. The list was provided in paper form to each member and will be sent electronically to all. Rodewald requested that any group that has not already signed the May 5th OBCI Signing Ceremony booklet please do so. Rodewald mentioned that the OBCI Coordinating Council now consists of some 27 groups, but that there will be an ongoing need to build the list of OBCI supporters (signatories), which now stands at 43 groups. He announced the availability of the *Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan* (<http://www.partnersinflight.org/>) as well as the online North American Bird Conservation Initiative monthly *All-Bird Bulletin* (<http://www.nabci-us.org/news.html>). An announcement that there have been email problems reaching various members was followed by some discussion on possible solutions, including putting all of the recipients in the “bcc” field and testing all of the email addresses for accuracy.

## I. Overview of OBCI Progress:

Rodewald reviewed OBCI progress since the first general informational meeting of October 30, 2003. That meeting was organized by Black Swamp Bird Observatory (Shieldcastle), ODNR Division of Wildlife (Scott & Hull), and Audubon Ohio (Ritzenthaler). Participants agreed that an OBCI was needed and preliminary mission & goals statements were discussed.

In December 2003, the initial organizing committee (Shieldcastle, Ritzenthaler, Hull, and Scott, plus Rodewald) took suggestions from the December meeting and further developed OBCI mission and goals statements. They also discussed an agenda for an OBCI meeting to be held in January 2004.

On January 15, 2004 approximately 24 groups gathered to officially meet as the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative. Bob Gates of Ohio State University served as a facilitator of the meeting. It was agreed that groups that have been active in the initial meetings would form the Coordinating Council of OBCI; however, to be inclusive, additional groups were invited to join the Council. Rodewald was nominated by the Coordinating Council as the Interim Chair of OBCI and Shieldcastle agreed to serve as Vice-Interim Chair. P. Whan and Shieldcastle agreed to coordinate mailings to potential OBCI supporters. There was further refinement of OBCI vision, mission, and goals statements. Tolford volunteered to create a web site for OBCI. It was decided that OBCI should have an official signing ceremony in May 2004 and Rodewald, Shieldcastle, McCormac, Ritzenthaler, Scott, and B. Whan agreed to assist with planning.

Between February and April 2004, Rodewald convened a planning meeting for the May signing ceremony (February). P. Whan and Shieldcastle compiled addresses for over 200 potential OBCI signatories and mailed invitations to join either the Coordinating Council or as a supporting group. Currently there are some 27 members on the Coordinating Council and 43 additional signatories. Several groups have not yet responded to an invitation to be on the Coordinating Council; U.S. Geological Service and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency declined the invitation to join the Council. Tim Tolford established the OBCI web site ([www.obcinet.org](http://www.obcinet.org)).

On May 5<sup>th</sup> of 2004 OBCI had its official signing ceremony in Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus. The successful event was attended by approximately 50 individuals, representing 28 conservation partners.

## II. OBCI Operating Structure:

### A. Coordinating Council

Discussion of the operating structure of OBCI was opened. We are continuing to use the Wisconsin model for the Coordinating Council. [***WBCI Coordinating Council** - The Coordinating Council, which represents the broad coalition of diverse groups interested in bird conservation, will guide, integrate, and coordinate WBCI activities to ensure accomplishment of the WBCI goals and objectives. It will annually determine priorities for bird conservation in Wisconsin, work to increase and focus funding and*

resources, and provide consultation to WBCI partners regarding allocation of bird conservation funds. The Council will work to create a match grant program for which WBCI endorsers can compete through formal proposals to the Council. The Council will act on behalf of the entire membership by providing oversight of WBCI operating budgets, as well as WBCI standing committees. The Council shall select a Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair have responsibility for organizing and conducting Coordinating Council meetings and signing any official WBCI communications. The Chair shall appoint at-large members. All memberships shall be reviewed every year. Membership on the Coordinating Council shall be limited to those organizations that have a statewide responsibility or role in bird conservation and are critical to the accomplishment of WBCI goals and objectives.”. The model goals of the Coordinating Council were generally accepted with the exception of those pertaining to funding the Initiative and a match grant program. Specific details regarding the purpose and goals of the Coordinating Council will be refined by the Chair and Vice-Chair to be approved at the fall meeting.

Discussion followed as to the mechanisms of funding and identifying sources of funding, with questions concerning the efficacy of pursuing non-profit 501(c)3 status with attendant treasurer and other requirements. Questions tabled for later consideration: Should OBCI handle money and apply for funds or rely on Coordinating Council partners as fiscal agents? An ad hoc committee may be formed to study the necessity of 501(c)3 status after the fall 2004 meeting.

## B. Initiative Coordinator

Rodewald suggested that there is a need for a full-time Initiative Coordinator (separate from a Chair position) and the Council supported this idea. The role of an Initiative Coordinator was generally accepted as laid out by WBCI [***Initiative Coordinator** - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources shall provide a coordinator to assist the WBCI Coordinating Council and partners achieve the goals and objectives of the initiative. The duties of the coordinator include:*

- *Gather relevant bird conservation information that will help WBCI committees complete their objectives.*
- *Advise the WBCI Coordinating Council and standing committees on avian conservation issues.*
- *Develop WBCI funding proposals.*
- *Organize and staff WBCI Coordinating Council and committee meetings.*
- *Prepare and distribute WBCI communications.”]*

There was uncertainty concerning the development of funding proposals and the gathering of relevant conservation information by the Coordinator. There was brief discussion as to hiring date, press responsibilities, organizing meetings, and web site responsibility. Specific duties of the OBCI Coordinator will be further developed by the Chair and Vice-Chair to be formally approved at the fall meeting.

## C. Formation of Sub-Committees

Subcommittees agreed upon were very similar to those of other state bird conservation initiatives (Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota):

1. Research and Monitoring
2. Habitat Assessment and Management
3. Outreach

4. Bird-related Recreation
5. Current Events
6. Ad hoc (possibly Membership, Events, Funding mechanisms for OBCI)

It was agreed that subcommittees should form as soon as possible to achieve results prior to the fall all-bird workshop. Rodewald will solicit names for chairs and members of subcommittees over e-mail. Rodewald and Shieldcastle will pick subcommittee chairs and provide input for these chairs on the selection of committee members. Appointed subcommittee chairs will be "acting chairs" until the fall meeting at which time they will become chairs with the implementation of the committees. Operating procedures for subcommittees will be developed by Rodewald and Shieldcastle and will include discussion of the terms of members revolving around the terms of committee chairs and OBCI chairs. Rodewald or Shieldcastle will check with Wisconsin to ascertain the current status of their committees and how they are operating.

An Executive Committee will be formed of the subcommittee chairs plus OBCI Chair and Vice-Chair.

\*\* A full outline of OBCI structure and operating procedures will be developed by the Chair and Vice-Chair to be approved at the fall meeting.

### **Coordinator Position Funding and Operating Funds**

The coordinator position should be a full-time, paid position by the end of 2005 or earlier. ODNR-DOW might be able to provide some funding for salary and benefits. There was discussion of possible membership fees so that the position would be more widely funded by OBCI partners. We will consider in-kind office space (possibly at Ohio State University) and granting.

ODNR-DOW is doing its two-year funding planning starting in December 2004. In light of this and other possible funding opportunities, we need to develop a position description and needs assessment. Knowing this we could certainly use a success story to point to and to justify the position. The budget shall include: salary and benefits, office space, etc. Discussion was had as to who might be the fiscal agent for the money involved: DOW, AO, AEP? Rodewald will start the process and begin with a position description to be presented to the council.

### **III. Fall 2004 All-bird Conservation Meeting**

The fall workshop will be a gathering of all OBCI signatories and any others interested. It will begin the process of determining bird conservation priorities for Ohio, deciding on conservation projects, and integrating Ohio efforts with national plans. Experts on various bird conservation plans (waterfowl, waterbird, landbird, shorebird) will be invited as might Ken Rosenberg to speak to stepping down NABCI goals to the state level. Ideas for speakers can be sent to OBCI Chair and Vice-Chair who will invite speakers. The workshop will be held in

November 2004 (IAFWA funding has to be used before December 2004.). It will be held away from Columbus: suggestions were Burr Oak and Mohican State Parks. McCormac will make initial contact with Mohican. A two-day meeting during the week was proposed. P. Whan will head up the mailing effort with help from Shieldcastle.

#### IV. Short-term Goals/Projects

There was strong agreement that an important strategy for OBCI in the coming year would be to develop achievable, “slam-dunk” projects to demonstrate success to OBCI Signatories, future potential supporters, and the community at large. It will be especially useful to complete several projects *prior to the November workshop*. Subcommittees should generate one or two short-term projects to focus on immediately. Project ideas should be carefully considered, such that no group within OBCI would find them objectionable (i.e. they should be consistent with the specific mission and goals of OBCI). To this end, a list of potential ideas will be generated by each subcommittee and submitted to the Chair and Vice-Chair by the end of August 2004.

<u>SHORT-TERM GOALS</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO:</u>
Fall workshop plans (locale, speakers, funding) (ASAP) McCormac	Chair, Vice-Chair, J.
Select subcommittee chairs (by late July)	Chair & Vice-Chair
Establish full subcommittees (by mid August)	Subcommittee Chairs
Write job description for paid Coordinator (by fall meeting)	Chair & Vice-Chair
Develop operating structure (by fall meeting)	Chair & Vice-Chair
Identify specific subcommittee goals (by fall meeting)	Subcommittee Chairs
Build membership signatories (before and after fall meeting)	All

#### Other Discussion on OBCI Goals:

- 1) There is a strong need for OBCI to focus on mission and goals to succeed in bird conservation in Ohio.
- 2) OBCI should be a clearinghouse that provides names of individuals or groups involved in avian conservation, monitoring, and research projects in Ohio, or possibly employment and volunteer opportunities; OBCI can be a coordinating group which can point people to different active groups; Current Events committee to provide current issues and policy needs.

#### V. OBCI Operating Funds

Covered throughout.

## **VI. OBCI Logo**

Boydlatour generated some logo ideas and these were passed around for a vote. Lynn will develop the logo ideas further with the hope that a final logo can be unveiled at the fall meeting. It was suggested that the OBCI logo should be an early project of the Outreach subcommittee.

## **VII. OBCI Website**

Send links to be added to Tolford. Other ideas for the web site would be welcomed.

End at 1:30