



OBCI

OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
VOL. 3 ISSUE 1
WINTER 2012

WELCOME BACK TO OBCI!

You are receiving this because you are a member of an OBCI signatory group, or signed up to receive our newsletter. Below you will find news about OBCI projects and bird conservation efforts in Ohio.

Our Mission: "Ensuring the conservation and effective management of birds in Ohio by fostering partnerships among governmental agencies, conservation organizations, businesses, and the public"

OUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chair: Paul Rodewald, OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources

Vice Chair: Julie Shieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Dave Horn, OSU School of Entomology, Ohio Biological Survey

Mike Reynolds, ODNR Div. of Wildlife

Dave Scott, ODNR Div. of Wildlife

Pete Whan, The Nature Conservancy



New Program Coordinator

Amanda Conover joined OBCI in September of 2011 as the new Program Coordinator. She received a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Delaware. Her research at Penn State was in biogeochemistry, examining the impacts of urbanization on greenhouse gas emissions from soils. She also interned with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor invasive species. For her graduate work at the University of Delaware, she studied the impacts of non-native plants on bird populations in suburban forest fragments. Since coming to Ohio this year, she worked as a research assistant for Ohio State University and surveyed birds in a variety of habitats across the state as part of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II. Her goals as coordinator include supporting efforts for coordinated monitoring and landscape-scale population management.



Photo credit: P. Rodewald

Upcoming Birding and Bird Conservation Events

8th annual Wilds Winter Raptor Extravaganza!

January 14, 2012

Cumberland, OH

More details and registration info:

<http://www.ohiobirds.org/site/events.php>

2012 Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Association Conference

February 3, 2012

Fawcett Center at The Ohio State University

More Information:

<http://ofwma.com/ConferenceInfo.aspx>

Ohio Natural History Conference

February 11, 2012

Columbus, OH

Keynote: Dr. David Bonter, Assistant Director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Wildlife Diversity Conference

March 7, 2012

Aladdin Shrine Complex, Columbus, OH
Wildlife Diversity: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

OBCI Completes Document to Guide Bird Conservation in Ohio

OBCI has completed its All-Bird Conservation Plan for Ohio! The Plan summarizes existing national and regional plans and provides guidance for future bird conservation efforts in the state. Focal areas and priority species are identified, as well as area goals for restoration and preservation by habitat type. If you have questions about the plan or would like assistance in using the plan to make conservation decisions for your organization, please contact Amanda Conover, OBCI Program Coordinator, at obcicoordinator@gmail.com or 614-432-8489.

Current Projects

Just some of the exciting new initiatives OBCI is working on!

Habitat Restoration at Maumee State Forest

OBCI and Maumee State Forest are currently working to secure funding for habitat restoration work in the globally unique Oak Openings region. The objectives of this project are to restore oak forest habitat by reducing red maple encroachment, apply Timber Stand Improvement measures to favor oak dominance in an area cleared by a tornado, remove invasive species, and install signage at habitat management sites to increase public awareness.

Lights Out Columbus

OBCI has partnered with the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and the American Bird Conservancy to begin a Lights Out during migration campaign in downtown Columbus. Program goals are to raise awareness for the dangers that lights cause for migrating birds and encourage residents and building managers to limit light emissions at night. OBCI would also like to support its partners in organizing a team to monitor bird collisions in downtown Columbus and light emissions from participating buildings. If your organization is interested in participating in this campaign please contact the OBCI coordinator.



Photo credit: T.K. Tolford

Volunteers Needed

OBCI needs your organization's help with some of our new project ideas.

Are you interested in helping to plan or implement a monitoring program for bird collisions with buildings?

Coordinating events across the state for International Migratory Bird Day. What does your organization have planned?

Please contact obcicoordinator@gmail.com with any ideas or to volunteer to assist with these or any OBCI projects. Thank you!

Contact Us:

Phone: (614) 432-8489

Email: obcicoordinator@gmail.com

Website: www.obcinet.org

Focus on our Partners: Wayne National Forest



Photo credit: L. Andrews

Wayne National Forest (WNF) encompasses 240,900 acres of the Appalachian foothills in southeast Ohio, and recently celebrated its 75th year as a National Forest. A popular destination for birders seeking the cerulean warbler, WNF contains valuable breeding habitat for this Species of Conservation Concern. WNF also has grassland habitat that supports other OBCI focal species such as Henslow's sparrows and grasshopper sparrows. WNF has been an OBCI signatory since 2004.

Help WNF monitor their bird populations!

Volunteers needed to assist in conducting breeding bird surveys at WNF. Must be proficient in identifying bird calls of all Ohio breeding birds. The surveys are conducted on established routes from 20 May to 20 June. Paid opportunity also available. For more information contact Katrina Schultes, at kschultes@fs.fed.us or 740-753-0901.



Find us on Facebook for OBCI updates, photos, and fun bird-related posts!

Would you like your organization to be our next featured partner, or do you have an item that you would like to be included in our next quarterly newsletter?

Please email obcicoordinator@gmail.com. Photos are welcome, but not required.