



OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

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Cerulean Warbler ©OBCI

Welcome to OBCI!

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OBCI's vision:

*The successful
conservation of birds
and their habitats in
Ohio.*

www.obcinet.org

Greetings Bird Conservation Partners!

You are receiving this because you are an OBCI signatory / member group, or you have signed up to receive our newsletter. We use this newsletter to keep partners updated on our progress and to provide important information regarding OBCI and bird conservation both within and outside Ohio.



Announcing: OBCI's 2006 All-Bird Conservation Workshop!!!

*Come to Penitentiary Glen Metro Park,
September 12-13th, 2006*

Are you a signatory (member) of OBCI? Are you interested in becoming involved in bird conservation in Ohio? We want to see you there! Here are some of the topics we will cover:

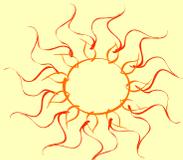
- 1) **OBCI's Ohio All-bird Conservation Plan:** We will present the plan and discuss ways of reaching our goals. Also, we want your feedback! What can we add to the plan to help you?
- 2) **Signatory Groups:** We want to learn about your organization! Would you like to give a brief presentation about your organization to find conservation partners? We want to help you reach your conservation goals!
- 3) **Learn about new OBCI projects:** Are you interested in starting an all Ohio Birding Trail? Would you like to get involved in promoting a "Lights Out!" program for Ohio across the state during bird migration? Come to the workshop to learn more about it!

Have other suggestions! We want to hear from you!

Want to see where we will be? Check out the Penitentiary Glen web site:

<http://www.lakemetroparks.com/HTML/PG/penitentiaryglen.html>

**We hope to see you there! Please check our web site
for updates on the Workshop!**



Check out the
HOCKING VALLEY BIRDING TRAIL



Experience the outdoors and discover [bird watching](#) in the Hocking Hills.

Contributed by Pat Quakenbush, Naturalist, Hocking Hills State Park

The Hocking Valley Birding Trail organization (HVBT) is a group of professional biologists, naturalists and interested birders promoting wise birding practices and conservation for current and future generations to enjoy in the Hocking Valley Region of Southeastern Ohio. The HVBT, in partnership with government, private agencies, businesses and conservation organizations, builds its standards on a keen interest in the preservation of bird species and the education of all ages about the positive benefits of birds to earth's diverse environment.



For those who like to cruise around the internet, watch for next year's agenda and upcoming bird programs at [birdhocking.com](#). Try out our integrated checklist and habitat locator. Each of the groups of birds has a corresponding habitat symbol that matches to one of our birding locations on the website.

We could use your help! We need to keep everything up and running and that means we need both volunteer assistance and dollars. We have upcoming birding-based projects such as erecting bulletin boards, winter bird counts, locating bird nesting structures or just keeping feeding stations running. We also have a need for further funding of bulletin boards, web-site costs, nesting boxes or brochures and bookmarks.

Whatever your interest, take some time and look around at [www.birdhocking.com](#). Or better yet...plan a trip this weekend. The birding is some of the best in the Midwest!



Committee Updates

CONSERVATION PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research and Habitat Committee has changed its name to the Conservation Planning and Research Committee (CPRC). The committee voted on several possibilities before settling on its new name! The new name better reflects the group's current responsibilities.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Conservation Planning and Research Committee has three new members: Mike Kravitz (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Andy Jones (Cleveland Museum of Natural History), and Jeff Brown (Ohio Bird Banding Association). *Welcome aboard!!*

NEW CO-CHAIRS

Scott Hull, Ohio Division of Wildlife and former Co-chair of the CPRC, has left OBCI for a new job in Wisconsin. Mike Reynolds of Ohio Division of Wildlife will serve as an interim Co-chair. Please see Mike's Bio on page 5. Suzanne Cardinal (OBCI Coordinator) is the other new Co-chair for this committee.

OBCI Updates

OBCI MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO A REPORT ON LAKE ERIE MIGRATION STOPOVER SITES

A new conservation report is hot off the presses! *Migratory Bird Stopover Site Attributes in the Western Lake Erie Basin* is a report that identifies a method to rank bird migration stopover sites within the western Lake Erie watershed. Paul Rodewald, OBCI Chair, contributed to this report on behalf of OBCI. Two other OBCI members contributed: Julie Shieldcastle, OBCI Vice-chair and Director of Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and Bob Gates a Professor at the Ohio State University and a representative for the Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society. If you would like a copy of the report please email Suzanne Cardinal (cardinal.11@osu.edu) or visit The Nature Conservancy's Great Lakes Web page <http://nature.org/greatlakes> for more information.



OBCI WEBSITE REDSIGN

We are getting a new look! Currently, OBCI is working with a professional web designer, Katherine Koch, to redesign and update OBCI's web site. Look for the new site to go online at the end of June! On our new site we will provide updated links regarding bird conservation, home pages for each of our committees and Coordinating Council, and a place to find upcoming bird related events around the state. Katherine Koch is a northern Ohio web designer/programmer who specializes in designing dynamic, database-driven web sites. A Summa Cum Laude graduate of Kent State University's Department of Computer Science, she launched her freelance career with nature-based organizations such as the Ohio Ornithological Society and Bird Watcher's Digest. Her recent client list also includes the Ohio State School of Environment and Natural Resources, and naturalist Julie Zickefoose, a frequent guest commentator on NPR's All Things Considered.

Thank you, Katherine, for all your hard work!

OBCI Updates cont'd

OBCI AND PARTNERS IN FLIGHT HOLD JOINT MEETING

On March 20, 2006 OBCI met with Partners in Flight's Implementation Committee at Deer Creek State Park. OBCI was represented by 11 members from the Conservation Planning and Research Committee and Coordinating Council. Partners in Flight presented talks on conservation planning and setting population goals and objectives at the state level. OBCI presented information on our history, the All Bird Conservation Plan and Ohio's Wildlife Action Plan. The meeting was very productive; ideas about local conservation planning were exchanged and OBCI learned more about Partners in Flight.



OHIO BIRD



CONSERVATION
INITIATIVE

STATE BIRD CONSERVATION CONFERENCE CALL

In March, Suzanne Cardinal hosted a conference call amongst many of the Midwest state bird conservation initiative coordinators and Fish and Wildlife biologists to discuss the possibility of having a workshop for state bird conservation initiatives. Participating states included: Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska and Wisconsin. The group was very enthusiastic and plans are moving ahead to bring together the state coordinators to discuss a monitoring plan across state borders. To learn more about this conference call please check OBCI's web site for the meeting minutes.

www.obcinet.org

OBCI HITS THE BOARDWALK!

OBCI hit the boardwalk at Magee Marsh for International Migratory Bird Day. Suzanne Cardinal, OBCI Coordinator, made a trip up to Lake Erie on May 13th, 2006 to promote OBCI and bird conservation in Ohio. While the weather was not cooperative, Suzanne talked to numerous bird-watchers who were interested in OBCI and our goals. OBCI will continue to attend bird and wildlife related events to promote our missions and goals.

Ohio Bird Conservation News Briefs

OHIO'S URBAN PEREGRINE FALCON UPDATE

BY DAVID SCOTT ,ODNR BIOLOGIST

The Division of Wildlife, with the assistance of volunteers around the state, located and monitored 19 territorial pairs of Peregrine Falcons during spring 2006. Eighteen of these pairs produced eggs and 17 pairs successfully hatched at least 1 egg; a total of 60 young hatched statewide this season. The unsuccessful pair, located in downtown Youngstown, continues to demonstrate behaviors that suggest re-nesting is possible. Young falcons are banded at 3 weeks of age to aid biologists in tracking their movements and recruitment into the Midwest's breeding population. So far, all Ohio falcons have been banded with the exception of young at the Eastlake and Toledo nest sites; young at these sites will be banded soon bringing the 2006 season total to 59 young falcons banded. Many of the earliest nests have young that are fledging (6-7 weeks of age) and entertaining local falcon enthusiasts who closely monitor the success of these initial flights. These volunteers are often able to provide assistance to young falcons that are injured or otherwise find themselves in an "urban jungle" predicament.



Ohio's nesting falcons use man-made structures as substitutes for the natural cliff-nesting sites they prefer in more remote and northern portions of their geographic range. While most Ohio nest sites are on tall urban and industrial buildings, a number of bridges and smokestacks are also used. Web cameras allow falcon enthusiasts to monitor nest sites throughout the season at Cleveland's Terminal Tower as well as in Columbus and Dayton. Connect to the Columbus falcon cam at www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/falcons/default.htm and find links to the other sites as well as a nesting summary chart and related resources.

Ohio Bird Conservation News Briefs cont'd

OHIO BIOLOGISTS REACH ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS TO PROMOTE BIRD CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

BY JEFF BROWN, OHIO BIRD BANDER'S ASSOCIATION

For the past 30 years, bird conservation efforts have focused mostly within the United States and Canada. However, many of our familiar migratory birds cross our southern border twice a year as they make their way to their wintering grounds in Central and South America. Because migratory birds cross national borders so do our conservation efforts.

Drs. Dave and Jill Russell from Miami University (MU), and founders of the non-profit Avian Research and Education Institute (AREI), along with faculty from the Autonomous University of Tamaulipas (AUT) have embarked on an ambitious collaborative project. This cooperative international program teaches and trains students in field and classroom methods of field ornithology. A new two-part workshop, entitled "*Birds without Borders*" began in 2006 offering credit hours to students from the two universities who wish to learn techniques in bird conservation.

In March 2006, a small group of students and professors from MU traveled to Tamaulipas, Mexico to meet students and professors from AUT and to band birds in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve. Some of the tropical species banded include: Fan-tailed Warbler, Elegant Trogon, and Blue-crowned Motmot. Also, the group banded species found in Ohio during the summer: Ovenbird, Hermit Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Black-and-white Warbler. To complete the exchange students and faculty from AUT traveled to Oxford, Ohio to visit banding station operated by AREI: the Miami University Bird Observatory and Hueston Woods Biological Station.

This new workshop will continue to link Ohio and Tamaulipas and will promote cooperation in research and education. As an extension of AREI, a permanent banding station has been established at the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve in Mexico. Drs. Dave and Jill Russell (MU and AREI) and Mr. Rafael Herrera Herrera (AUT) hope to continue this collaboration to teach and train students about the dynamic relationship between bird conservation, summer, migratory, and winter habitats, and communication among researchers.

For further information regarding this workshop please visit AREI's website www.avianinstitute.org. Drs. Dave and Jill Russell are members of the Ohio Bird Banding Association, an OBCI signatory.



Our new Conservation Planning and Research Committee Co-chair



Mike Reynolds is a Wildlife Research Biologist at the Waterloo Wildlife Research Station in Athens, Ohio. He has participated in studies to estimate survival and the effects of hunting on Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, and White-Tailed deer. He has recently assumed the role of Forest Wildlife Habitat Coordinator and will work to implement forest focus area and forest habitat tactical plans on public lands in Ohio. Mike represents the Division of Wildlife on the Cerulean Warbler technical working group and steering committees of the Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain (BCR 13) and Appalachian Mountains (BCR 28) Bird Conservation Regions.

We want to hear fom YOU!

Would you like to get the word out about your organization? Do you have a bird related event or news that you want to see in our newsletter? Please forward us bird related events or news that are happening next fall. All questions, comments, suggestions, or events should be directed to Suzanne Cardinal at cardinal.11@osu.edu or 614-292-6544.

A special thanks to Pat Quakenbush, Jeff Brown, Dave Scott, John Ritzenthaler, and Casey Tucker for article submissions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Birding With A Purpose—Audubon Assembly set for November 10th-12th, 2006

Contributed by John Ritzenthaler and Casey Tucker, Audubon Ohio

The next statewide Audubon conference for Ohio, the Audubon Assembly, is scheduled for the weekend of November 10 - 12, 2006 in Columbus. This year's theme, "Birding With A Purpose", will focus on the role that birdwatchers across the state can play in enacting lasting conservation for birds and bird habitats.

Highlighting the Assembly will be keynote presentations by noted ornithologist Jerome A. Jackson, author of 'In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker,' Pete Dunne, author of the new 'Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion,' and world-renowned birder and naturalist Kenn Kaufman, author of 'Kingbird Highway' as well as the acclaimed 'Kaufman Focus Guide' series.

The Assembly is presented with the support of conservation partners: ODNR Ohio Division of Wildlife, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, and the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative. The conservation of bird species through habitat conservation is the focus for the Assembly.

So save the date and watch for more details in coming months on how you can participate!

THANK YOU!

We extend a warm "Thank you" to the following organizations for grants contributed to OBCI:



We are very grateful to the following groups for their contributions and hosting of OBCI meetings: American Electric Power Company, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Columbus and Franklin County Metroparks, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, ODNR-Division of Wildlife, The Ohio State University and Worthington Public Libraries. Thank you to all Committee and Council members and the organizations they represent for in-kind support of OBCI!