



# OBCI

OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
VOL. 3 ISSUE 2  
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## 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



# Lights Out Columbus

## Monitoring Program to Begin

Fatality due to building collisions is estimated as a leading cause of bird deaths in North America, with some figures as high as 1 billion birds killed per year. OBCI and its partners Grange Insurance Audubon Center, American Bird Conservancy, Columbus Audubon, Ohio Wildlife Center, American Electric Power, Ohio State University (OSU) Museum of Biological Diversity, and ODNR Division of Wildlife are working to initiate a Lights Out campaign for downtown Columbus during bird migration periods, starting in fall 2012.

**Volunteer for Lights Out Columbus!** Prior to the start of the Lights Out Campaign, a monitoring program for nighttime light emissions from buildings and bird collisions with windows will start on March 15th in downtown Columbus. Volunteers are needed to walk a 4 mile route through downtown Columbus to look for collision victims. Anyone is welcome to volunteer, even those who are unable to commit to more than one survey. If you are interested in volunteering, please register online, or contact Amanda Conover, OBCI Program Coordinator, for more information.

**Endorse our campaign!** The success of Lights Out Columbus depends on the support of conservation organizations and community members, so please show your support by endorsing our efforts. If your organization agrees with the goals and objectives of Lights Out Columbus, please consider completing an online endorsement form to become a partner on this project. No financial commitment is required.

## In this Issue

Lights Out Columbus	Page 1
Conservation Committee	Page 2
Current Projects	Page 2
Upcoming Events	Page 2
Publications	Page 3
Grant Opportunity	Page 3
Focus on Our Partners	Page 3

## Upcoming Events

**Michigan Bird Conservation Workshop**  
March 22-24, 2012  
Tustin, MI  
More details and registration info:  
[www.mibci.org](http://www.mibci.org)

**Shreve Spring Migration Sensation**  
March 24, 2012  
Shreve, OH  
More Information:  
<http://www.happypages.com/migration/index.htm>

**Environmental Education Council of Ohio Annual Conference**  
April 26-29, 2012  
Shawnee State Park  
More Information:  
<http://www.eeco-online.org/conferences/Announcement.htm>

## Conservation Planning and Research Committee Reestablished

One of OBCI's standing committees, Conservation Planning and Research, has been reestablished with a membership of 16 individuals from various signatory organizations. The goals of the committee are to:

- 1) Play a lead role in prioritization of the focal areas for conservation projects and development of research needs for each section of the Ohio All-Bird Conservation Plan
- 2) Advance the implementation of the plan
- 3) Form sub-committees to target specific regions, habitat types, or conservation activities requiring additional committee attention

A first committee meeting will be held on March 29th at 10am in 333D Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Rd, Columbus. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email Amanda Conover or call 614-432-8489.

## Current Projects

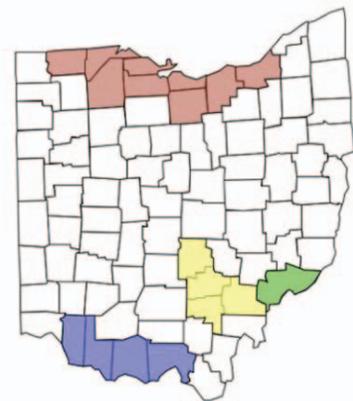
*Just some of the exciting new initiatives OBCI is working on!*

### American Kestrel Nest Box Trail



OBCI, the Ohio Ornithological Society, and ODNR Division of Wildlife are working with the Ohio Department of Transportation to install nest boxes for American kestrels on the backs of highway road signs in Wyandot County. Similar nest box programs along highways have been operating in other states very successfully for almost three decades. As the project advances, volunteers will be needed to help construct, install, and monitor the boxes.

### Promotion of Ohio's Birding Trails



Following the launch of the new Lake Erie Birding Trail, OBCI has been working to publicize all of Ohio's birding trails. There are currently 4 regions of Ohio with birding trails, and each of these is highlighted in a new section of the OBCI website. OBCI will continue to explore options to promote these recreation opportunities to both Ohioans and out-of-state visitors.

## Recent Bird-related Publications from Ohio

### Investigating Annual Variability in Pelagic Bird Distribution and Abundance in Ohio's Boundaries of Lake Erie

[http://www.fws.gov/midwest/wind/references/MappingPelagicBirdDistributionForOffshoreWindTurbineDevelop\\_ODNR.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/wind/references/MappingPelagicBirdDistributionForOffshoreWindTurbineDevelop_ODNR.pdf)

### Socio-economic Impacts of Birdwatching along Lake Erie: A Coastal Ohio Analysis

<http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/economic/>

## Grant Opportunity



Is your organization planning an event to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)? Environment for the Americas is offering small grants of IMBD materials such as posters, bookmarks, and temporary tattoos.

<http://www.birdday.org/2012materials/MBDmini-grantform.pdf>

### Contact Us:

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Website: [www.obcinet.org](http://www.obcinet.org)

## Focus on our Partners: Crane Hollow Nature Preserve



Photo credit: Barbara W. Ellis

OBCI would like to welcome our newest signatory member, Crane Hollow Nature Preserve! Located in Laurel Township in Hocking County, Ohio, the Crane Hollow Preserve encompasses over 1,940 acres, 1,286 acres of which have been dedicated as a state nature preserve by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. It is part of the unglaciated Allegheny Plateau, with elevations from 780 feet to 1,140 feet. Its rugged vertical cliffs, reentrant caves and deep ravines are formed in Black Hand Sandstone. The Preserve contains a number of plant communities including beech/hemlock, mixed oak, and oak/pine woods, lichen-ericad openings, floodplain woods and thickets, marshland, and sandstone exposures.

Scientific research is an important part of the Preserve's program, with published reports completed on the preserve's geology, vascular plants, fungi, lichens, breeding birds, insects, amphibians, and reptiles.

The Crane Hollow Preserve has restricted access in order to protect the ecological health of the hollow, although written permission may be granted to research scientists. Occasionally, guided hikes are offered for the general public. For more information, please contact the Preserve's Executive Director, Heather Stehle, at [heather@cranehollow.org](mailto:heather@cranehollow.org) or 740-438-5777.



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](mailto:obcicoordinator@gmail.com). Photos are welcome, but not required.