

OBCI-Conservation Planning and Research Committee Meeting Notes
September 17, 2019
ODNR Fountain Square
DOW Lower Conference Room
9:00 am – 12:06 pm

Action Items in bold italics.

Committee Members in Attendance: Kelly Williams-Chair; Matt Shumar, Erin Cashion, Tom Macy, Daniel Kovar, August Froehlich, Laura Kearns, Bryce Adams, Nick Shell, Mark Wiley, Jess Lautenback, Steve Matthews, Bob Gates, Jessica Schmidt, Brendan Shirkey, Mark Shieldcastle, Chris Tonra, John Watts, as well as Andy Jones & Katrina Schultes by phone.

Kelly W. called the meeting to order at 9 am & asked for introductions.

OBCI Updates: Laura Kerns and Matt Shumar

Laura K. updated the committee on the Cerulean Warbler Geolocator Project aimed at tracking migration and migration routes, stopover areas, and breeding regions. 28 birds provided data only 1 from Ohio. A total of 19 birds were found to winter in NE Colombia, Venezuela and the adjacent Andes Region. A publication should be complete in 2020.

Matt S. provided an update on the Small Patch Forest Guide that is near final publication. Holden Arboretum has agreed to fund the first printing. Final details and edits are being completed. A small summary handout will also be developed. A complete outreach plan will be determined. Nick S. offered space/small presentation time at annual NRCS conference in 2020. OBCI is also working on a second printing of the SE Forest Management Guide and currently looking for sources of funding to print.

Lights Out: Matt Shumar and Andy Jones

Matt S. provided a statewide overview since inception in 2012. Currently seven Ohio cities participating. Collision monitoring in most locations is underway with volunteers. It is hoped that the data gathered will influence building and landscape design with the goal of working with cities and corporations to manage safer buildings and reducing light to reduce collision and impacts. Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 produced 3,258 birds with 700 rehabilitated and released. Powdermill Avian Research Center (PARC) is studying long-term post-collision survival by tracking with nano-tags. Matt S. additionally discussed other information learned to date with most of the data from Cleveland.

Andy J. provided background and overview of the collision issues and efforts in Cleveland. Currently ~100 volunteers trained to date. Last 2.5 years the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) has processed over 5,000 birds collecting a variety of data. CMNH has utilized interns to assist with skins and prep and other collision/building data. They are working with corporate partners to turn off lights at night. Andy shared that American Woodcocks seem to have a high incident of impact and that work is being done by rehabilitators to increase post-

collision survival from 33% to 75% by developing changes to cages in facilities. It has been determined that bird species that more frequently vocalize during nocturnal flight are more common to collide with buildings vs. bird species that do not. There is currently collaboration with data from Chicago and Cleveland.

Matt S. asked if anyone interested in or knew of other studies that may need access to collected birds for various research projects to let him or Andy J. know.

Kelly W. asked about needed resources for the project. Matt S. and Andy J. offered the any budget funds would be welcomed and that various small grants were being pursued. It was noted that PARS is funded through USFWS and Carnegie. Andy provided that it was about \$4,000/yr in specimen prep supplies and that rehab facilities would spend several thousands of dollars, most through donations. No cost for time and other labor. Matt S. offered that the Ohio Wildlife Center (Columbus) received grant funding from the Columbus Zoo for rehab and a part-time coordinator. The Akron Zoo has also provided funding. Brendan S. suggested that maybe a corporate challenge especially in the Cleveland area might be an avenue of raising additional funds.

Matt S. updated progress on demonstration reflective glass projects in each city. Currently the Akron/Summit Library is in discussion. An estimate of \$110,000 to wrap the first two floors of the Columbia Gas building in Akron has been received.

Mark S. commented that PARC has requested the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) and Erie Bird Observatory/Station to tag birds for behavioral research. There is also that possibility the BSBO will pursue a glass migration tunnel as is currently located at PARC. Matt explained the PARC Migration Tunnel Research related to glass and glass reflection.

Ohio Avian Research Conference – Kelly Williams

Kelly W. provided an update on the current status and suggested that it be a possible joint project with OBCI's Outreach and Conservation Planning and Research Committees. Jay Mager, Stefan Gleissberg and Jeffrey Peters are interested in continuing. Kim Kaufmann has also expressed interest in support.

Matt S. shared his thoughts regarding the benefits of the conference especially to high school and undergraduate students. Matt S. asked that anyone interested to contact him. Fall appears to be good timing for this conference.

Laura K. noted that the ODOW would prefer to see the conference coordinated by OBCI, but ODOW is supportive.

Steve M. suggested that student representatives from participating institutions be a part of the conference.

Laura K. to provide Kelly W. with an ODOW contact.

All Bird Conservation Plan – Kelly Williams

Kelly W. led a discussion on a review and assessment of goals of the 2010 Plan and how successful this plan has been and thoughts on the structure of the revision.

The several committee members discussed functions of the 2020 update that included: the need to update the 2010 plan and its timing with other conservation and action plans of the region (Appalachian Joint Venture and Great Lakes Plan) and how these are stepped down from the larger Partners in Flight plans and the All Bird Plan would be a further step down from these; identification of the audience.

Kelly W. asked how do we assess the objectives of the 2010 Plan?

Matt S. offered that we should identify what has been useful from the 2010 Plan and how that should be incorporated into the new guide along with new ideas.

Laura K. commented that not only should it be stepped down from the regional plans but also tied to the 2015 ODOW State Wildlife Action Plan which can then relate it to funding. Also will be links to the DOW Tactical and Strategic Plan. She felt that OBCI views the plan to guide the overall direction of bird conservation in Ohio.

Mark S. felt a strategic review of the what was accomplished with the 2010 plan; what was completed and what was not completed and items not completed are they still important and are there OBCI partners that may be able to become involved now to achieve items not accomplished.

Chris T. provided an update of the Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Joint Venture Landbird Plan from a meeting held at Winous Point with a focus on focal species; addressing breeding and migrating birds and their habitats. Next meeting in early December will be writing type meeting. Habitat goals are questionable with trend goals for each species being similar to the Waterbird and Waterfowl Plans and to include a human dimension component.

Bob G. noted that the Marsh Bird and Waterfowl UMRGL Joint Venture Plans were completed. In the Waterfowl Plan a human dimension was included and habitat objectives were increased over the previous plan. The Shorebird Plan has had minimal discussion to date. The 2007 Shorebird Plan is the most recent plan. Laura K. commented on the Mid-Continent Shorebird Plan. Brad Anders is the National Shorebird Coordinator. Bob G. also felt that incorporating a GIS review as to where conservation/restoration could take place combined with a local ground check would be important. Mohammed Al-Saffar from the UMRGLJV will be a good contact for modeling/GIS information. Matt S. suggested that a human dimension element be included to the new and its importance.

Tom Macy (DOF) – Overview of 2010 Ohio Forest Action Plan

Tom provided an overview of the 2010 Ohio Forest Action Plan. It was developed as part of the 2008 Farm Bill to be developed by each State's Forestry Division. It applies to all forest lands, public and private. It is available online for viewing and is presented in two documents: 1. Forestry Resource Assessment, 2. Forest Resource Strategy – these both comprise the Action Plan. The revision of the Forest Action Plan to be completed by June 2020 and they are currently in the process of updating the Forest Resource Assessment document. Tom requested that any sources of new data available could be included, however that data would need to be submitted fairly soon. They are currently scheduling Public Outreach Meetings for plan input. Nick Shell asked about the correlation to the Farm Bill and Tom explained it.

Kelly W. asked Katrina S. for an update on the Wayne National Forest Plan. Katrina S. summarized the components of the plan and what it covers. The last plan was completed in 2006. Currently, USFS is moving forward with the initial steps for revision and the integration of the Forest Action Plans. Katrina S. explained the 3 steps for the plan development process:

1. Assessment Component – due at the end of 2019 with a final version first part of 2020.
2. Plan Development – scheduled for the second half of 2020. Incorporates new information and Forest Action Plans of States and stage for science-based information going forward.
3. Implementation & Monitoring – 2021 beyond.

August F. asked if the Wayne National Forest Plan would incorporate the National Land Bird Plan? Katrina S. noted how umbrella species may be involved and species of concern would be included.

Kelly W. asked the committee how do we want to structure the new All Bird Plan? Matt S. suggested that the current plan may not be the most effective and that it should be easily to understand and read; Laura K. suggested a thorough review of each chapter by subcommittees; Steve M. asked about a target timeline of 2020-21 and offered additional discussion on the review of the last plan.

Bob G. posed the question of should it be organized by habitat or bird type? Kelly W. offered that spatial data may help define habitats. Tom M. noted that the Forest Action Plan may result in a “story-map” on the web site to provide pertinent data and a general overview as a possible approach for the All Bird Plan.

Katrina S. offered that the audience may be focused at land managers, NGOs, Park Districts and Science-based agencies; Matt agreed. August F. felt it may provide a guide to assist agencies with justifications for spending resources on land management and that there should be an outreach component. Bob G. suggested that the plan could offer information to result in larger conservation impacts and leverage various conservation groups to effectively work together for greater results. Nick S. noted that NRCS is using funds to put grassland bird habitat on the ground and hiring staff for these efforts.

Kelly S., Matt S. and Laura K. led a discussion on subcommittee formation and structure of documents.

Steve M. re-emphasized the 3 Priority Goals of OBCI: 1. Lights Out, 2. Complete Small Patch Guide, and 3. All Bird Conservation Plan.

Matt S. noted a couple of upcoming events: 1. Ohio Prescribed Fire Council Meeting on Oct. 2 with Dr. Jim Herkert as the Keynote speaker will discuss Henslow's Sparrow and Fire; 2.) Laura K. noted the upcoming Partners-in-Flight 30-year Anniversary in 2020.

11:00 a.m. Kelly W. called for a break and then reconvene for those interested in subcommittees.

Reconvened at 11:21am with a smaller group consisting of Mark S., Bob G., Matt S., Laura K., Kelly W., John W., Erin C., Bryce A., August F., Mark W, Daniel C.

Matt S. initiated a discussion on organization of the plan by Habitat vs. Species and how the plan should include an "urban habitat" section. Laura K. noted that DOW is not using habitat but a species approach for the Wildlife Action Plans and that a species approach would be an approach consistent as a step-down form the Joint Venture approach.

Kelly W. asked how the 2010 Plan was structured? Mark S. commented on Life Cycle Modelling and Management by seasons and how he felt most land managers manage habitat not species. August F. compared it to the Bat Conservation Plan and that it may be read more by audience if it's more habitat vs species related. Laura K. felt that there are things missed if approached from a habitat only perspective and noted the Appalachian Joint Venture and Golden-winged Warbler research.

Mark S. suggested a possible case history approach for focal species to capture both habitat and specific species. The Committee discussed species info, focal species, habitats and interactions.

Kelly W. suggested a review of the 2010 Plan what worked/what didn't work and possible changes.

The following sub-committees were formed:

Landbirds: Matt S.; Steven M. Nick S., Erin C., Joe L., Daniel C.

Shorebirds: Mark S., Bob G., Laura K.

Waterbirds: Brendan S., Laura K., Mark S.

Waterfowl: Brendan S., Bob G.

Subcommittees should review:

Assessment of 2010 Plan: Were Objectives met/what are needs.

Emerging Threats:

Assessments of changes and not if they are still relative in 2020.

Human Dimensions and how they apply to birds.

Note emphasis of 2010 Plan and needs of new additions.

What were the target species and their current status.

Kelly W. to send out a Doodle Poll for Oct. 15 and 17at ODNR.

Each subcommittee should meet and send email of review to Kelly W. by Oct. 9th.

Matt S. to send out email regarding OARC Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Prepared and submitted by John Watts.