

# **Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative**

## **Bird-based Recreation Committee/Communications Committee Meeting January 21, 2005**

### **Minutes:**

The meeting began with introductions and brief descriptions of activities occurring at our facilities. There are many events statewide that could be avenues for bird-related activities and the OBCI. Each participant at the meeting briefly explained the programs and facilities they have to offer. Our collective group has many areas where we could collaborate on programming and facility use for bird related activities. A suggestion is that OBCI choose a signature event each year and focus on using it to get out the message and information about OBCI and its members.

Cross marketing events was discussed. There are already many bird related activities scheduled but most of the participants weren't aware of what everyone has to offer. Much discussion centered on the need to let the public know about events. It was decided that a subgroup (John Ritzenthaler, Kevin Hils) would conduct a survey to determine what bird related events are happening in the state. Once information is compiled the committee would like to analyze it from a statewide perspective to identify overlap and gaps. Perhaps the committee could then manage the overlap and work to create programs to fill in the gaps. Through the many organizations represented in OBCI we would hope to have the ability to do a "call for action" to invite members to host/cohost or create events to fill in underrepresented areas of interest. We would also like to connect opportunities – i.e. make connections between events or projects and student interns from Hiram or offer a list of "experts" available to teachers or community groups as hike/field trip leaders or guest speakers. This could be available on the website on a resource page and in a brochure.

**Would OBCI have the space to host this inventory and an eventual calendar of events and resources on their website?**

**What are priority issues for OBCI as an organization and where would the coordinating council want these committees to concentrate their efforts?**

Through conversation it was agreed that the two committees share lots of overlap and should continue to meet as one for the near future. There is great synergy between the groups and it will naturally occur that Outreach will be promoting events and information coming out of the Bird-based Recreation committee. It was also agreed that there will be natural subcommittees created to address specific action points.

The following action points were agreed upon:

1. Determine if each organization/member of OBCI has an active hotlink to their website
  - Ask that each organization list the bird-related resources they have available and what needs or opportunities they have. (Resources could be staff, interns, events, and marketing ability. Needs might include assistance with research and events, ideas, marketing,,,) )
  - It was suggested that each OBCI member should be contacted with a brief survey and asked how they want to be listed as a resource and if they have needs or opportunities they would like to promote. We should also ask them to list events and anything they do that can be bird related. This will allow us to create a page of resources that organizations and the public could use relating to bird resources within the state.
  - (Lynn Boydelatour, Karyn Tremper)
2. Convene a meeting of all birding trail folks statewide. The meeting could be a forum to discuss the pros and cons of creating or maintaining birding trails and look for successful models to study in other states. Studying the economic benefits trails contribute to a region would be an important talking point. Other groups to include might be Bed and Breakfast or heritage and natural areas tour routes. Also look at the Rails to Trails, the Buckeye Trail and county/municipal established bike trails as resources and opportunities to cooperate with.
  - It was suggested that the meeting be held in Appalachian Ohio which might make funding available through the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio's Yellowroot Fund. (Pete has information on a contact. Lynn suggested we might hold it at a state park lodge and he could be the contact for that)
  - (John Ritzenthaler, Kevin Hils to compile list of current festivals and trails)
3. Is there an OBCI brochure? The group felt there should be one for the public and perhaps also one targeted at groups that should be members and are not.
  - It was suggested that we could contact the Division of Wildlife about printing or apply for funding from the Wildlife Diversity fund.
  - The brochure could highlight great events already happening at member institutions – Mohican Wildlife Weekend, Adams County Trail, local IMBD events, as well as contain information about OBCI in general and the plight of birds in our state, maybe IBA locations, 3 great spots to see birds in Ohio,,

- Distribute the brochure through the website and through members institutions – Ohio State Parks have over 50 million visitor days per year, Ohio zoos have over 5 million annual visitors, get it into roadside visitor centers in the brochure stacks, area convention and visitor's bureau's and use the Division of Wildlife's regional offices, , ,
- For the brochure and events information both, it was suggested that they be coordinated in regions around the state, modeled after the Division of Wildlife's regions for easy understanding and distribution.

A future meeting will be planned.

**Attendees:**

Pete Whan – The Nature Conservancy

Lynn Boydelatour – Ohio State Parks

Karyn Tremper – USFWS

Kevin Hils – The Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

Dick Tuttle

Larry Mitchell – League of Ohio Sportsmen

Pat Quackenbush – Ohio State Parks

John Ritzenthaler – Audubon Ohio

Joan Sturtevant – Hiram College

Janice Mock – Hiram College

Myra Vick – Hopewell Culture NHP

Lynda Andrews – Wayne National Forest

Barbara Revard – The Columbus Zoo & Aquarium