

OHIO BIRD



CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Conservation Planning and Research Committee Meeting Minutes February 15, 2006 The Ohio State University

The following committee members were in attendance: Steve Barry (ODNR-Wildlife) via conference call, Tom Berger (ODNR-Forestry), Suzanne Cardinal (OBCI), Bernie Daniel (Ohio Bluebird Society) via conference call, Bob Gates (OSU), Scott Hull (ODNR-Wildlife), Deni Porej (The Nature Conservancy), Jason Steckel (Pheasants Forever), John Ritzenthaler (Audubon Ohio), Amanda Rodewald (OSU), Paul Rodewald (OSU), and Kurt Waterstradt (USFWS).

Co-Chair Scott Hull started the meeting with introductions and a review of minutes from the January 13, 2006 meeting. Paul Rodewald proposed that Suzanne Cardinal take over as the co-chair for the committee. Paul has served as an interim co-chair for the past two years but suggested having Suzanne take over because of her involvement with writing the All-bird Plan. Paul will continue to serve as a committee member. The committee confirmed Suzanne as the new Co-chair.

A new name for the committee was discussed. Suzanne suggested the following name possibilities: 1) Research and Habitat Committee 2) Scientific Advisory Committee 3) Conservation Planning and Research Committee 4) Conservation Strategies Committee. Members voted and agreed upon Conservation Planning and Research as the new Committee name.

Suzanne presented GIS maps that had been created by Joni Downs, a former graduate student at Ohio State. The maps showed protected and focus areas for ODNR, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Ohio and Wayne National Forest. These maps will help with the planning process to help identify places that need conservation efforts. Also, these maps should help identify commonalities between the BCR regions. Scott Hull suggested that Suzanne continue to collect data layers to add to the maps.

Bob Gates gave an update on the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Joint Venture. This joint venture is working on an all-bird conservation plan that is broken down into sub-regions, with conservation strategies, action plans, and population goals for waterbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds and landbirds. This should be completed by mid-summer.

Scott, Steve, Kurt and Suzanne presented the step-down of the National Bird Conservation Plans. Scott Hull presented the Ohio Landbird Strategies

Conservation Plan. PIF has already stepped down their plan to state level with population deficits/surplus for each species along with goals already defined. There was discussion about how to turn population estimates into habitat conservation goals and why they are needed. The population estimates are based on the best possible data and help non-scientists understand conservation goals.

Steve Barry presented a draft of a Shorebird Conservation Plan for Ohio. Steve met with Mark Shieldcastle to discuss the best strategies for shorebird conservation. In general, shorebird conservation efforts in Ohio are directed towards migration and maintaining varying water levels to enhance habitat for migrating shorebirds.

Kurt Waterstradt presented population goals on waterfowl for Ohio. He suggested waiting to see new population goals from the joint ventures since they are in the process of updating their goals for the BCRs.

Suzanne Cardinal presented a step down of the Waterbird Conservation Plan. Similar to shorebirds, waterbirds lack population goals due to the lack of monitoring program and reasonable population estimates of many cryptic species. The step-down of the waterbird plan was done by BCR with species of concern listed for each region. Suzanne mentioned that decisions about conservation targets will need to be made by the committee.

OBCI will meet with Partners in Flight on March 20th at Deer Creek State Park to discuss the PIF National Landbird Conservation Plan and the Ohio All-bird Conservation Plan. Suzanne asked for discussion topics for the meeting and presented an idea from Terry Rich, the PIF Coordinator. Terry suggested a comparison between ODNR's-Wildlife Action Plan and PIF's plan to see how the plans differ and where they overlap. The group decided against this idea, but made the following suggestions for agenda topics:

- 1) What is the PIF step-down process?
- 2) How do we turn population objectives into habitat goals?
- 3) How do habitat goals turn into on the ground conservation?
- 4) Could we see some examples of the step-down process?
- 5) How can OH contribute to a continental monitoring plan?
- 6) Where did the Breeding bird survey routes occur in Ohio? How do we make corrections to the assumptions that were made when modeling the populations within each BCR? (Example: population goals for Cerulean Warblers in BCR 22)

The committee discussed the outline for the all-bird plan that was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. Amanda Rodewald suggested revising the outline so that only the Conservations strategies section and Partners and Funding

section would be broken down by BCR region. The first part of the plan will contain information on priority species and habitats for all of Ohio. The second part of the plan will contain Conservation strategies and Partners and funding broken down by BCR region. This part could be postponed until more information on how to reach these goals is collected. Bob Gates suggested adding an extra BCR region by splitting BCR 22 into two by separating out the Lake Erie watershed. The committee was in support of all suggestions made.

Paul and Suzanne will work on a time table and the next steps for the All-bird Plan.

The next meeting of the Conservation Planning and Research Committee will be held at Deer Creek State Park on March 20, 2006 with Partners in Flight.