

Conservation Planning and Research Committee  
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 26, 1 pm  
Ohio Division of Wildlife District 1 Office

Members Present: Mark Shieldcastle (BSBO), Matt Shumar (OBBA II, OSU), Bob Gates (OSU), Ken Duren (Div. of Wildlife), Mike Reynolds (Div. of Wildlife), Nathan Stricker (Div. of Wildlife) and Amanda Conover (OBCI).

Guests: Mike Ervin (Div. of Wildlife), Mark Wiley (Div. of Wildlife), Katie Koch (US FWS), Terri Martincic (Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society), and Ken Ostermiller.

**A: Old Business**

1. Committee members were asked to review the new executive summary of the ABC Plan. Member feedback was incorporated into a final version of the executive summary, now available at [www.obcinet.org/plans/ExecSummary.pdf](http://www.obcinet.org/plans/ExecSummary.pdf)
2. Amanda Rodewald's SE Ohio Forest Management guide was sent out for review to CRPC members who have expressed interest and to other outside individuals suggested by the CPRC.
3. Amanda presented a map overlaying priority areas for some of OBCI's largest partners, including Ducks Unlimited, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon IBAs, and The Nature Conservancy. The committee discussed how to use this information to guide the designation of OBCI's priority areas.
  - a. Ken Duren suggested that priority areas be designated with levels indicative of the number of OBCI partners listing these areas as a priority.
  - b. Bob Gates noted that JV priority areas were not included, although these areas can minimize priority areas within Ohio, as they have a regional focus.
  - c. Mark Shieldcastle suggested that Winter Bird Atlas data be considered so that priority areas reflect full life cycle conservation.

**B. New Business**

1. Amanda Conover will be attending the Northeast Bird Conservation Conference, with the theme "Bridging the Implementation Gap" in Plymouth MA from

October 16-19. She is hoping to gain some insight and learn techniques to assist with the implementation of OBCI's All-Bird Plan.

2. Based on the needs of many OBCI partners, Amanda Conover suggested the formation of an OBCI Research Assistance Network to connect land managers and others with specific study design questions to experience researchers.
  - a. Matt Shumar suggested that OBCI develop a “key” or online tool of questions for those wishing to develop a monitoring program or research project. Katie Koch mentioned that the Northeast Bird Monitoring Handbook provides an excellent framework to design a monitoring program.
  - b. Mike Reynolds thought that the creation of a FAQ document might be a good place to start, and could be a collaboration with the Outreach and Education Committee.
  - c. Bob Gates suggested that a workshop on monitoring and research project development organized by OBCI for partners during the spring, which included field time, could fulfill a need within our partners.
3. **Mike Reynolds stepped down as chair of the committee and Matt Shumar was appointed to take over as committee chair for the next year.**
4. Presentation by Katie Koch, Coordinator of Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership (email [obcicoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:obcicoordinator@gmail.com) for a copy of **Katie's presentation**)
  - a. The goals of the Partnership include:
    - i. Integrate monitoring into bird management and conservation
    - ii. Broaden scope of monitoring for species most at risk and for which we lack adequate information to make effective decisions
    - iii. Coordinate programs among organizations and across spatial scales
    - iv. Improve survey design, field methods, and data analysis
    - v. Employ modern data management strategies
  - b. The Partnership maintains a registry of 170 bird monitoring programs throughout the Upper Midwest Region and is posted online at the Midwest

Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership's page

(<http://midwestbirdmonitoring.ning.com>). It includes metadata on sponsoring institutions, principal investigators, web links, geographic scope, survey methods and frequency, and target species.

- c. The Partnership's working groups include: Secretive Marsh Birds, Nocturnal birds, Grassland Birds, Migrating Birds, and Forest Birds. You can join any of these groups at the Partnership's website.
- d. The Midwest Avian Data Center (MWADC) is part of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), which is intended to:
  - Provide a centralized repository to ensure longevity of data
  - Provide complete metadata to prevent improper use of data
  - Develop an agreed-upon standard, interoperable format for the data
  - Adapt that format to prevent loss of richness of data
  - Provide guidance within the discipline to ensure that data management is considered from the outset and that the discipline keeps up with rapidly changing technologies
- e. The MWADC offers a variety of data analysis and viewing utilities, allowing users to compare bird population trends from several large datasets at multiple scales (e.g., Bird Conservation Region, State, County, and between months/years).
- f. The MWADC makes avian monitoring data and analyses readily accessible to habitat managers, conservation practitioners, scientists, decision makers and the public.
- g. For information on how to enroll in the MWADC visit <http://data.prbo.org/partners/mwadc/>

### **C. Next Steps**

- a. The committee reflected on our progress toward developing committee objectives:
  - i. At our first meeting on March 29, 2012, the committee decided that updates from regional organizations (JVs, Midwest

Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership) were needed before objectives can be solidified.

- ii. Bob Gates suggested that following our informational meetings in July and September, the next committee meeting should be a “working meeting” to develop priority areas for OBCI.
- iii. The development of committee objectives will also be revisited at the next meeting.