

**Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative  
Conservation Planning and Research Committee  
Meeting Notes**

**Date & Time**

Friday, August 15, 2014  
9:30am - ~12:00pm

**Location**

Ohio Division of Wildlife, District 1 Office  
1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, Ohio 43215

**Objective**

To provide an update for committee members on project progress and to develop expansion of new programming

**Attendees**

Shana Byrd (*The Wilds*), Amanda Duren (*OBCI*), Ken Duren (*ODNR Division of Wildlife*), Bob Gates, (*Ohio State University*), Andy Jones (*Cleveland Museum of Natural History*), Laura Kearns (*ODNR Division of Wildlife*), Stephen Matthews (*Ohio State University*), Cotton Randall (*ODNR Division of Forestry*), Mike Reynolds (*ODNR Division of Wildlife*), Dave Sherman (*ODNR Division of Wildlife*), Mark Shieldcastle (*Black Swamp Bird Observatory*), Matthew Shumar (*Ohio State University*), John Watts (*Columbus Metro Parks*)

**Notes**

A. Review of Managing Forest Birds programs

Over the past year, a sub-group of the CPRC collaboratively developed a training presentation on the material from [the guide](#). This presentation will be adapted for use in many settings, including conferences and workshops. It can be viewed at:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1x4tuJYErduydBFUbwA1W9rwbwcsNB6BiRYyh4W3d6M/edit?usp=sharing>

The presentation was used in a series of workshops in May and June.

- a. Woodland Owners: OBCI partnered with Rural Action to offer a full-day training session with a field component on the material in the guide for forest land owners. The session was held on May 2nd at Vinton Furnace and was attended by 28 people.
  - b. Land Managers: OBCI offered two workshops for foresters and land managers. Half the workshop consisted of a classroom session of presentations, and the other half was devoted to field time to allow participants to experience the birds and recommended management techniques in the field. The workshops were held in two locations to accommodate attendees from across the state.
    - i. Workshop 1: Was held Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Vinton State Experimental Forest. The workshop was attended by 27 people.
    - ii. Workshop 2: Was held Tuesday, June 24th at Malabar Farm State Park and Mohican State Forest. The workshop was attended by 28 people.
- B. Review of feedback from workshops

Participants at the Vinton and Malabar workshops were asked to complete evaluations. A summary of the results can be viewed at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By5lZJHq5JIGMDc4UV83YmtPcTQ/edit?usp=sharing>

- a. Overall the feedback was very positive, but a few suggestions for changes came up repeatedly:
    - i. Increase the content covered in the workshop.
    - ii. Make the workshop more technical.
    - iii. Do the field session in the morning.
    - iv. More recognition of different contexts (i.e. deer abundance) across the state. Very SE Ohio specific.
- C. Discussion on expanding the Managing Forest Birds program
- a. New materials should address additional contexts, including:
    - i. Smaller patch sizes. This could highlight the land's value as migratory stopover habitat, and be relevant to landowners with small lots. Those owning 10-50 acres comprise the largest portion of landowners.
    - ii. Other regions of Ohio
    - iii. Specific bird species of conservation concern (management techniques to create habitat for them)
    - iv. Consideration of other listed species (bats, snakes)
  - b. New tools and media to be developed:
    - i. Decision support system for types of harvest based on local and landscape factors (web tool?)
    - ii. A set of case studies that illustrate changes in bird community following habitat management
    - iii. Smaller booklets to address additional contexts
    - iv. Series of videos highlighting case studies
  - c. Distribution of Materials
    - i. Post electronic media and distribute print materials through Call Before You Cut ([www.callb4ucut.com/](http://www.callb4ucut.com/))
    - ii. Post powerpoint of presentation (with script) online
    - iii. Share presentation through Forest Connect (Cornell University)
- D. Discussion on developing programming on grassland management
- a. What is the need?
    - i. Local resources already exist for smaller private landowners (NRCS, SWCDs) who are under management restrictions if enrolled in conservation programs
    - ii. There is a need to share information on grassland management among those managing conservation lands

1. Specifics on management for species of concern, supported by research
  2. Gathering of existing management guides and materials
- iii. What can OBCI's role be?
1. Assist with hosting a workshop at The Wilds
    - a. Presentations from grassland managers and researchers
    - b. Field visit to areas of previous management at The Wilds
    - c. Invite ODOT to workshop
  2. Act as a clearinghouse of existing management guides and information
    - a. Gather existing materials from committee members and online
    - b. Make available on OBCI website prior to workshop

#### E. Other Discussion

- a. Ideas for Ohio Fish and Wildlife Presentation Series
  - i. Saw-whet Owl banding
  - ii. Aerial and pelagic surveys
  - iii. How to look for and report invasive species on your property
  - iv. Keeping cats indoors
  - v. Pollinators
  - vi. Wildlife marking/tracking, how the data is gained, used
- b. Updates needed to the OBCI All-Bird Conservation Plan
  - i. Should a sub-committee be assembled to review the plan every 3 years?
- c. Monitoring workshop to be paired with an existing conference (OFWMA?)
- d. A new chair is needed for the CPRC. Please contact Matt Shumar ([ohiobba2mbs@gmail.com](mailto:ohiobba2mbs@gmail.com)) if interested.

#### F. Next steps

- a. Forest Management
  - i. Amanda Duren and Matt Shumar will collaborate to develop a plan for the development of the discussed new media.
- b. Grassland Management
  - i. Amanda Duren and Shana Byrd will discuss a potential date for the grassland workshop at The Wilds.
  - ii. John Watts and Ken Duren will send existing grassland management materials for the OBCI website to Amanda Duren.
  - iii. Amanda Duren will post these materials on the OBCI site.