



OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Conservation Planning and Research Committee Conference Call Minutes Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Callers:

Laura Kearns (*Chair, OBCI Conservation Planning and Research Committee, ODNR Division of Wildlife*), Amanda Duren (*OBCI*), Ken Duren (*ODNR Division of Wildlife*), Cotton Randall (*ODNR Division of Forestry*), Mark Shieldcastle (*Black Swamp Bird Observatory*), Matthew Shumar (*Ohio State University*), Katrina Schultes (*Wayne National Forest*), Mike Kravitz (*Ohio EPA*), Todd Fearer (*Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture*), August Froehlich (*TNC*)

Notes

Update on Forest Management Projects

We discussed the progress that two teams of committee members have made toward expanding the forest management project to include additional materials.

Case Studies of Forest Management

This team is working to create a series of case studies on public and private lands illustrating changes in bird community following habitat management as prescribed by the “Managing Forest Birds” guide. Currently, this team is soliciting land owners and managers to participate in the case studies.

See “*Forest Management Case Studies Plan*” below for more information.

- Todd suggested that Matthew Cimitile (AMJV) be invited to participate on this team.

Small Patch Size /NW Ohio

This team is working to create a supplement to the guide that will bring together existing research to present forest management recommendations for smaller patch sizes, with a focus on northwest Ohio. Laura and Amanda are currently working to assemble this team, and will bring the group together to draft a project plan in late January.

- Mark Shieldcastle (BSBO) expressed interest in participating on this team.
- Cotton Randall (Div. of Forestry) will contact Laura and Amanda soon with a suggestion on a NW Ohio Service Forester to participate on this team.

Geolocator Research Project with AMJV

Laura introduced a potential partnership project for OBCI with the AMJV involving placing geolocators on cerulean warblers. The project is being led by David Buehler (University of Tennessee). As a project partner, OBCI may act to administer approximately \$10,000 over two years to support the project. The money would be provided by the Division of Wildlife through a line item allocation in the annual contract for OBCI with Ohio Biological Survey (OBCI's fiscal agent). The project team is requesting \$7500 in 2016 and \$3000 in 2017 for field work. See attached proposal for more information.

Proposed Additions to OBCI Contract with ODOW

Laura and Amanda presented an idea to the committee for consideration regarding OBCI administering funds to various bird-related conservation projects on behalf of the Division of Wildlife. Similar to what is being proposed for the geolocator study, it is being proposed that OBCI could administer funds provided by the Division of Wildlife through line item additions in the Division's annual contract with Ohio Biological Survey (OBCI's fiscal agent).- Other examples include providing funding for the Ohio Young Birder's Club (~\$1,000 annually) and annual due payments to the AMJV (~ \$5000 annually, which are currently not provided by the Division of Wildlife). Given the complex nature of Division funding contracts, this would facilitate the Division's ability to provide funds in smaller amounts to various bird conservation and research projects throughout the state and region. Members of the committee commented that this relationship could be a positive step for OBCI, but expressed the following concerns:

- It should be specified that OBCI/OBS would not be responsible for any unforeseen costs or expenses from recipients
- Would OBCI simply be transferring funds to other organizations, or would we be responsible for reporting how funds were spent by other organizations? Would it be our responsibility to see that the funds were spent as intended?

The committee will vote by email to either endorse or reject this idea. Laura will bring the recommendation of the CPRC committee to the OBCI steering committee.

Next Steps

- If you are interested in participating on either forest management project team, let Laura or Amanda know.
- Provide suggestions for potential case study participants to Laura or Amanda (see description below for more information).
- Please vote on the proposed funding changes. Details on voting will be provided to the committee by email.

**Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative
Conservation Planning and Research Committee
Forest Management Case Studies Plan**

Objective

To create a series of case studies on public and private lands illustrating changes in bird community following habitat management as prescribed by the “Managing Forest Birds” guide

Call for Participants

In 2013, the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) and its partners produced a guide written by Amanda Rodewald entitled “Managing forest birds in Southeast Ohio: A Guide for Land Managers”. The management recommendations in the guide are for land managers seeking to improve habitat conditions for forest birds, and are based on research conducted in the forested landscapes of southeast Ohio by The Ohio State University and Ohio Division of Wildlife. The guide includes recommendations for creating early successional habitat, planning shelterwood harvests, and managing mature forests to benefit birds. To further assist land managers in improving forest habitat for birds, OBCI and its partners will be developing a series of case studies on public and private lands across the state that illustrate the changes in the bird community following habitat management as prescribed by the “Managing Forest Birds” guide. We are seeking private woodland owners and public land managers who are willing to share their experiences with forest management on their property and the resulting changes in forest structure and the bird community.

Specifically, we are seeking properties that have conducted one or more of the following management actions within the last 5 years:

1. Clearcut greater than 10 acres or with multiple smaller cuts within a 0.3-0.6 mile radius
2. Shelterwood harvest, especially with large diameter trees retained (>15 inches dbh)
3. Single tree or group selection cuts
4. Thinned patches with a diverse understory

We are seeking landowners that are passionate about their woods and have an interest in managing for wildlife, including birds. Participation in the project would include allowing site visits by OBCI representatives, as well as an on-camera interview to share your experiences. We are especially seeking landowners that can describe changes they have observed in the bird community in their woods pre- and post-management. Photographs and video will be taken of the property and ultimately posted online for public viewing. The exact location of any private property featured in the case studies will not be disclosed.

Timeline

November 2014- January 2015:

- Finalize project partners and Conservation Planning and Research Committee (CPRC) sub-committee members
- Recruitment of woodland owners and public land managers
- Initial phone calls with interested participants

February – March 2015:

- Site visits by CPRC sub-committee to properties of interested participants
- CPRC sub-committee meets to develop interview questions and plan for filming and photographing each site

April 2015:

- Finalize interview questions and plan for filming and photographing each site

May-June 2015:

- Visits to sites to interview managers, photograph and film the property

July- September 2015:

Editing and production of videos and print versions of case studies

Deliverables

Booklet of at least 5 case studies (pdf version, print version pending funding)

Series of short (5-10 mins) videos (number of videos determined by funding, videos posted online)

Webpage highlighting case studies (hosted at obcinet.org)