



## OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

### Conservation Planning and Research Committee Meeting Minutes January 19 2017 Location – Hilliard – OBS/MBI Office

#### **Objective**

To assemble the committee to discuss new directions for conservation planning and research for OBCI in relation to priority projects of Lights Out Ohio and Forest Management. In addition, we will provide updates on forest management guides, geolocator research, and changes in OBCI with new staffing.

**Attendees – Present:** Matt Shumar (OBCI), Laura Kearns (ODNR –Div. of Wildlife), Keith Lott (USFWS), Marne Titchnell (OSU-Extension), Dave Apsley (OSU-Extension), Steve Matthews (OSU/USFS), Kelly Williams (OU), John Watts (Cols Metroparks), Cotton Randall (ODNR-Div of Forestry), Lee Crocker (NWTf); **via phone:** Mark Shieldcastle (BSBO), Katrina Schultes (USFS), August Froehlich (TNC)

#### **Minutes**

Matt Shumar was introduced as the new coordinator, and the group was updated that Kim Kaufman (BSBO) and August Froehlich (TNC) are currently serving as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The mission of OBCI and the CPRC was reviewed with the group.

The cerulean warbler geolocator project, under Dr. Dave Buehler of the Univ. of Tennessee, is moving forward this spring in southeastern Ohio after a one-year delay due to some issues with the geolocator retrieval and technology. OBCI/ODNR-DOW is providing funding for this project.

In 2015, the steering committee voted to allow for line items in the OBCI contract with the Division of Wildlife to help fund special research projects such as the cerulean warbler project.

#### *Updates on the Case Study Video Project*

(Team Members: Cotton Randall (Div. of Forestry), Dave Apsley (OSU Extension), Marne Titchnell (OSU Extension), Steve Matthews (OSU), August Froehlich (TNC), Matt Cimitile (AMJV), Matt Shumar (OBCI Coordinator), Laura Kearns (CPRC Chair, Div. of Wildlife), Past – Amanda Duren (Past OBCI Coordinator))

The videos were released Nov 1 online to the general public. It was suggested that we link the videos to the Call B4 You Cut website. Thus far there have been approximately 500 views online. The group emphasized that there needs to be more outreach. Suggestions to help with this are to contact Hocking Hills Travel and Tourism, the Sustainable Family Forestry Initiative. Dave A. suggested that there is TELE, through the Yale School of Forestry, that helps people design communication materials. This might be something worth looking into for promoting our case study videos and our upcoming forest guides.

*Updates on the Forest Small Patch Size Guide:*

(Team Members: John Mueller (Div of Forestry), Erin Cashion (Ohio History Connection), Marne Titchenell (OSU Extension), Steve Matthews (OSU), Nick Schell (USDA-NRCS), Mark Shieldcastle (Black Swamp Bird Observatory), Matt Shumar (OBCI Coordinator), Laura Kearns (CPRC Chair, Div. of Wildlife), Past - Jennifer Thieme (TNC), Past – Chris Tonra (OSU), Past – Mark Debrock (USDA-NRCS), Past – Amanda Duren (Past OBCI Coordinator))

The team met via conference call on January 17 and discussed the most recent draft of the guide; with a timeline to complete a draft (suitable for review) by April 30. The team hopes to have a completed version ready this fall.

Additional thoughts/suggestions made by the CPRC included: that the main assumption about the small patch guide is that the goal is to improve forest lands for bird habitat. Dave A. suggested that it might be worth tying in the importance of small patches into helping with the algal bloom problem. There are also changes in CAUV and Forest Tax Law that need to be considered. In wet woods, vernal pools and creating herp habitat should also be emphasized. For advice on wet woods, Toledo Metroparks, TNC in Northwest Ohio, and NRCS involved with projects along the Maumee River might be helpful. There are also riparian protection projects through the farm bill program that might be helpful to review for the guide. Other folks in NW Ohio who might be worth contacting are Curtis Young in Van Wert Co who has specialties in entomology and ecology, and Amy Stone in Lucas Co with expertise in EAB.

*General Comments on Forest Management Priority Project:*

There is a societal pushback towards silviculture within the state, and so we also need to work at communicating with audiences such as these and that are less familiar with the benefits of silviculture to birds. In addition, continuing to communicate to foresters about the ways in which management benefits birds is also important. An emphasis on species specific tree-species and how they are important to birds, using poster species such as cuckoos to trace the importance of specific management approaches to them, and focusing on a landscape/regional approach are other topics to highlight/pursue in the small patches guide or future products/communications.

We considered additional products that we could produce that would help with these efforts including: a summary guide of forest management practices (similar to the Wisconsin Woods guide), other videos, and a decision-tool to help guide landowners in choosing management actions.

*Comments on Lights Out Priority Project:*

The Lights Out program is strong in Columbus, and gaining momentum in Dayton, Cleveland, and Toledo. There are lots of volunteers and wildlife rehabilitators involved in the different areas. Matt will continue to shift responsibilities so that it is under more local management.

Cincinnati remains an area where connections need to be formed. The Cincinnati Zoo might be a possible place to start.

Greg Smith and Amanda Duren have a publication coming out soon in the Wilson Journal of Ornithology on bird collision and light emittance research that was conducted in the Columbus Lights Out area. Certainly, future research is possible, we just need to decide what questions to answer, and then what data to collect....

*Miscellaneous Discussion:*

Some version of the webinar programs will continue. Input on what topics could use outreach/research is needed. The outreach committee will help oversee, but input from CPRC would be helpful.

Nightjar monitoring could be improved in the state. Pre-determined routes that were designated by the Nightjar Survey Network (<http://www.nightjars.org/>) exist but are under monitored. This might be something that OBCI could help promote. Keith L. suggested that there may be way to tie this into some of the existing bat acoustic monitoring done by volunteers around the state.

The OBCI Conservation Plan is in need of review and updating, particularly given the recent publication of the Second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. CPRC members were assigned the task of reviewing the plan by fall, with a conference call to be scheduled sometime in September. Matt S. suggested reviewing along with Chapter 7 of the Second OBBA, which profiles species of conservation concern. Laura and Matt will be sending out future guidance regarding this soon.

*Announcements:*

The Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture/US Forest Service is planning some private forest landowner workshops regarding management of forests for birds in April.

The Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture, an important partner in some of OBCI's efforts, will hold its annual Technical Committee Meeting at Lake Hope State Park this August. These meetings are open to all professionals with an interest in the activities of the AMJV. For more information see - <http://www.amjv.org/>. Details will be forwarded to OBCI partners once finalized.

**Recap of Action Items:**

By March 1: Submit comments to Matt regarding data collection for the Lights Out Program

By September: Review of OBCI Conservation Plan/Conference Call; Chapter 7 of Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II