

**Central Hardwoods All Bird Workshop
for the Northern Interior Low Plateaus
Henderson, KY 29-30 May 2002**

Wednesday, May 29th, 2002

- 8:00 a.m: Welcome; Tom Young and Shawchyi Vorisek, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- 8:30 Intro to workshop, NABCI, and the Central Hardwoods BCR; Jane Fitzgerald, Central Hardwoods BCR Coordinator
- 9:00 Shore and waterbird ecology and the associated planning efforts; Bob Russell, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 9:30 Questions/discussion
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 Landbird ecology and the Partners in Flight planning effort:

Background; Jane Fitzgerald
Grasslands; Jim Herkert, The Nature Conservancy, Illinois
Grass-shrub and savanna birds; Jeff Brawn, Illinois Natural History Survey
Forest birds, upland and bottomland; Jeff Hoover, Illinois Natural History Survey
- 11:45 Questions/discussion
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Glades and Barrens Ecosystems: Steve Olson, Hoosier National Forest
- 1:30 Private Lands Programs (with an emphasis on fescue conversion) in Kentucky: Brian Smith, KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- 2:00 Important Bird Areas: Dan Niven, National Audubon Society
- 2:30 TNCs Ecoregional Plan for the Interior Low Plateaus: Jeff Sole, The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky
- 3:00 Questions/discussion
- 3:15 Break
- 3:30 GIS tools and intro to Thursday's breakouts – Jane Fitzgerald and Diane True, Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership
- 4:15 Questions/discussion
- 4:30 Adjourn
- 5:30 Field trip to Sloughs Wildlife Management Area (optional)

Thursday, May 30th, 2002

8:00 Breakout Sessions by habitat type: wetlands; grasslands, grass-shrub and savannas; forests

Breakout sessions are intended to foster discussion among participants as part of an effort to identify specific focus areas for priority birds and habitat species suites in the northern Interior Low Plateaus portion of the Central Hardwoods BCR; GIS software and a variety of data layers will be available in each breakout to serve as tools in identifying and mapping focus areas.

Maps of public lands will be provided in the breakouts and used as core areas for larger bird conservation areas, should managers and local partnerships decide to participate in their development as such. Participants with knowledge of those areas are encouraged to provide input about the current status and uses of those lands; threats to the integrity of the surrounding landscapes; the socio-political realities of the regions they work in; and conservation strategies and partnerships that may be most effective in maintaining or improving conditions for priority bird species and species suites in those areas.

It is expected that some landscapes may have important habitat types that have few public lands or protected areas embedded in them. Participants are encouraged to help identify specific geographies where there may be a need for acquisition or easements programs.

11:30 Breakout Summaries

12:00 Lunch

1 p.m. Breakout Sessions by State (Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky)*

The goal of these sessions are to encourage participants from the same geographic areas to interact with one another and collectively develop visions for implementing bird conservation strategies in their regions. Identifying other biodiversity or conservation groups with goals that overlap or compliment bird conservation habitat objectives will be useful in developing potential partnerships. Existing or potential conflicts among competing interests both within and outside of the conservation community should be brought to light and ways to mitigate those conflicts discussed.

3:00 Breakout Summaries

3:45 Discussion with regards to putting projects together, funding needs and opportunities, etc.

4:45 Summary and Wrap-up

*The agenda for the afternoon of the second day is tentative and may be adjusted depending on what the groups feel will be the most productive use of their time.

Report to IAFWA re: the “all-bird” workshop in Kentucky, 29-30 May, 2002

The first day of this two day workshop was comprised of a series of talks designed to inform participants about the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), the various bird conservation planning initiatives under the NABCI umbrella, and the ecological needs of the various priority bird species and species suites of the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region (CHBCR). Other speakers informed the group about the ecology of glade and barrens ecosystems, an often overlooked but important habitat dispersed throughout the Central Hardwoods; Kentucky’s private lands program with an emphasis on it’s potential as a conservation tool for improving habitat for grassland and grass-shrub bird suites; Audubon’s Important Bird Areas program; and the Nature Conservancy’s ecoregional planning process and its ability to identify landscapes of ecological importance for many components of the region’s species and ecological communities. At the end of the first day, participants were introduced to the various geospatial data layers that would be available for use in mapping bird conservation focus areas in the Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana portions of the Central Hardwoods in the breakout sessions the second day. These layers included landcover, roads, ecological subsections, rivers and streams, state and county lines, public lands, The Nature Conservancy’s portfolio sites (i.e. areas of high biodiversity potential) and maps showing landscapes with large percentages of forest and grasslands that have been associated with enhanced densities and reproductive success of grassland and forest birds.

On the second day, participants broke out into three groups charged with delineating and mapping focus areas for grassland and grass-shrub birds (including the Northern Bobwhite), forest birds, and wetland birds, respectively. Each state came into each habitat breakout session

as a group and rotated through the breakout sessions throughout the morning. The ability of public lands that overlapped important grassland, forest and wetland landscapes to serve as core areas of larger, landscape-scale focus areas were discussed, along with the current conditions of those landscapes, short-and long-term threats to the land's ecological integrity, and the kinds of conservation approaches that would be most useful in those areas given their local socio-political realities. Areas within landscapes deemed suitable for a habitat species suite by the % grass and forest cover models, but without public lands to serve as cores were evaluated as well, with The Nature Conservancy's portfolio sites used as a guide to areas where conservation efforts would serve other biodiversity interests as well as those of priority birds. The results of the breakout sessions and maps of focus areas of each of the three habitat types across the three states were then presented to and discussed by the group of participants as a whole. Maps and results of the meeting will be compiled by the Central Hardwoods BCR Coordinator in the form of a BCR Implementation Plan which will be drafted by mid-summer 2002.