

Agenda for Central Hardwoods All Bird Workshop

University of Tennessee Space Institute, February 5-7, 2002

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

- 8:00 Welcome and Introduction
Gary Myers, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- 8:15 The North American Bird Conservation Initiative: Making All Bird Conservation Work
Greg Wathen – Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- 8:45 Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture
Mark Woodrey –LMV Joint Venture
- 9:15 GIS Landuse Analysis of Central Hardwoods BCR
Diane True - MoRAP
- 9:45 Integrating Ecological Needs of Landbirds
Jane Fitzgerald, Central Hardwoods BCR Coordinator
- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 Landscape Composition and the Northern Bobwhite
Wes Burger, Mississippi State University
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 1:15 USFWS Ecosystem Plan - Waterfowl Objectives
Don Orr, USFWS
- 2:00 Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
Mark Gudlin, TWRA
- 2:30 The Nature Conservancy's ILP Ecoregional Plan
Milo Pyne, NatureServe
- 3:00 Partners In Flight Interior Low Plateau Plan
Bob Ford, USFWS
- 3:30 Important Bird Areas
Dan Niven, National Audubon Society
- 4:00 MoRAP LandUse Analysis – First Look at Important Conservation Areas
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Wednesday, February 6, 2002

- 8:00 Description of breakout sessions – Identifying key areas
Jane Fitzgerald
- 8:30 Breakout Sessions
Wetlands
Grassland/Shrubland
Forest
- 11:30 Breakout Summary
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 1:15 Description of breakout sessions – Threats, priority sites, and monitoring
Jane Fitzgerald
- 1:30 Breakout Sessions
- 3:30 Breakout Summary

Thursday, February 7, 2002

- 8:00 Funding opportunities: Putting Projects Together

Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region (BCR 24)

All Bird Workshop

Arnold Air Force Base, Tullahoma, Tennessee - February 5-7, 2002

Report to IAFWA

A workshop to discuss all bird habitat conservation in the Tennessee/Alabama section of the Central Hardwoods BCR was held February 5-7, 2002, at Arnold Air Force Base, in Tullahoma, Tennessee. The workshop was attended by 47 individuals representing state and federal agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, universities, and forest industry. The objectives of the workshop were to 1) facilitate a better understanding of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) in the Tennessee/Alabama portion of the Central Hardwoods; 2) further develop and refine population and habitat objectives from the various bird conservation plans, including *Partners In Flight Bird Conservation Plan for the Interior Low Plateau, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Colonial Waterbirds Plan, and Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative*, and; 3) begin the process identifying priority bird conservation areas and stepping-down habitat objectives of the various plans.

The first day of this two-and-a-half day workshop was comprised of a series of talks designed to inform participants about 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. A representative from the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture also spoke about how that Joint Venture approached conservation planning, implementation and evaluation of habitat and other projects they have undertaken on behalf of priority birds in the region. 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 Tennessee/Alabama portion 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. 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 first, 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. At the end of Day 2, the results of the discussions and maps of focus areas identified in each breakout were then presented to the group of participants as a whole.

The morning of the third day was devoted to discussion of funding opportunities that could be used for conservation work such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Neotropical Migratory Bird Act, Farm Bill, and Forest Legacy Program. Ideas about other conservation strategies that could be employed by local partners working on behalf of bird conservation in the various focus areas also were discussed. 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.