

29 September 2004

Dear Bird Conservation Partners:

On 17-18 November 2004, the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) will host its first annual *All-bird Conservation Workshop* in Ohio. I am writing to invite your participation in this workshop and in future bird conservation efforts of OBCI. Please also consider inviting other individuals in your organization to attend the workshop and participate in the efforts of OBCI.

This workshop will be held at the Mohican State Park and will focus on the development of all-bird conservation planning for Ohio. Day 1 of the workshop will include several national speakers who will discuss existing continental bird conservation plans (e.g., U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Landbird Conservation Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan), and ways that conservation planning can be implemented. Additional presenters will provide overviews of the status and trends of Ohio birds and habitats. Day 2 will involve group discussions focused on bird species/habitat prioritization for Ohio and defining goals for OBCI committees. A *tentative* agenda for the workshop is attached. Workshop updates will be posted on the OBCI web site: <http://www.obcinet.org/>.

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) will provide funding to pay for rental of the conference facility, travel expenses for state employees and invited speakers, and food costs for attendees. If you are not a state employee, you will have to pay for your own lodging and travel to and from the workshop. Lunch and dinner on Day 1 and breakfast and lunch on Day 2 will be provided, as well as snacks during breaks.

If you would like to attend this event, please RSVP to Jim McCormac **before 15 October**. E-mail: Jim.McCormac@dnr.state.oh.us, Phone: 614-265-6440, or regular mail: ODNR, Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43229. Please contact Jim if you have questions about workshop logistics, including travel reimbursement. After contacting Jim, please make your room reservations at the Mohican State Park conference center (800-282-7275). Directions and a map to the conference center are enclosed. Other details are available at: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/mohican.htm>.

The Mohican is a great place to hold this important workshop and your presence in November will help make it a success. We have much to do to build on our achievements and the momentum we've generated as an organization. I strongly encourage you to attend and enthusiastically urge you to consider your future participation. Thanks for your interest in OBCI.

Sincerely,

Paul Rodewald
Chair, Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative

OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE
ALL-BIRD CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP

Mohican State Park, 17-18 November 2004

WORKSHOP GOALS:

1. ***Providing Information***—To review: (1) continental bird conservation plans (e.g., North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, game bird plans, PIF Landbird Conservation Plan, N.A. Bird Conservation Initiative), (2) regional conservation plans (e.g., Joint Ventures, Bird Conservation Region plans), and (3) current bird conservation efforts in Ohio.

2. ***Understanding***—To help conservation partners understand how national and regional planning and priorities can be related to on-the-ground avian conservation for Ohio.

3. ***Habitat/Species Prioritizations***—To review the status, trends, and threats for major habitats (grasslands, wetlands, forests) and associated bird species within Ohio. This will be followed by discussions about priority areas and priority species for conservation by OBCI partners.

4. ***Future Objectives for OBCI***—To discuss OBCI goals for 2005 and priority objectives for OBCI Committees (Research and Monitoring, Habitat Assessment and Management, Outreach, Bird-based Recreation, and Current Events).

AGENDA - DAY 1 (November 17):

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
9:00 am	Coffee & pastries	
9:45 am	Workshop Introduction, Goals, & Overview of OBCI	Greg Butcher, Facilitator, Audubon Paul Rodewald, Ohio State Univ.
	CONTINENTAL/REGIONAL CONSERVATION PLANS	
10:00 am	N.A. Waterfowl Management Plan & Joint Ventures	Greg Soulliere, U.S.F.W.S.
10:45 am	Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan	Randy Dettmers, U.S.F.W.S.
11:30 am	Upland Game Bird Plans	Jim Inglis, Pheasants Forever
Noon	Lunch (provided)	
1:00 pm	U.S. Shorebird & Waterbird Conservation Plans	Bob Russell, U.S.F.W.S.
1:45 pm	N.A. Bird Conservation Initiative and Bird Conservation Region Plans	Greg Butcher, Audubon
2:30 pm	Break	
	STATE/LOCAL CONSERVATION	
2:45- 4:00 pm	Agency/NGO bird conservation & research efforts	David Scott, OH Div. of Wildlife Julie Shieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Obs Lynda Andrews, U.S. Forest Service Peter Whan, The Nature Conservancy Jenny Finfera, Toledo Metroparks John Ritzenthaler, Audubon Ohio
4:00- ~5:00 pm	Implementing bird conservation in Ohio	Greg Butcher, Facilitator
6:00 p.m.	Dinner (provided)	

DAY 2 (November 18):

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
8:00 am	Overview of Day 1	Greg Butcher, Facilitator
	PRIORITIES FOR HABITAT/SPECIES CONSERVATION	
8:15 am	Priority Species/Habitats: why we prioritize	Randy Dettmers, U.S.F.W.S.
8:30 am	Grasslands/Agricultural Areas	Scott Hull, OH Div. of Wildlife
9:30 am	Wetlands	Robert Gates, Ohio State Univ.
10:30 am	Break	
10:45 am	Forests/Shrublands	Amanda Rodewald, Ohio State Univ.
Noon	Lunch (provided)	
	OBCI ORGANIZATIONAL & COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES	
1:00 pm	Organizational goals for 2005	Paul Rodewald, Ohio State Univ.
1:30 pm	OBCI Committees – Research & Monitoring	Scott Hull, OH Div. of Wildlife
1:50 pm	OBCI Committees – Habitat Assessment & Mgt	<i>To be announced</i>
2:10 pm	OBCI Committees – Outreach	John Ritzenthaler, Audubon Ohio Barbara Revard, Columbus Zoo
2:30 pm	Break	
2:45 pm	OBCI Committees – Bird-based Recreation	<i>To be announced</i>
3:05 pm	OBCI Committees – Current Events	Audrey Mayer, U.S. EPA
3:25 pm	Summary/Wrap-up	Greg Butcher, Facilitator
~3:30 pm	Adjourn	

Driving Directions & Map

Mohican Resort & Conference Center is located in north central Ohio, approximately 20 miles southeast of Mansfield, Ohio - near Loudonville. Following are driving directions from common points of origin. Additional information for the resort is available at:

<http://www.mohicanresort.com/static/1.htm> or 419-938-5411.



Driving Directions

From Interstate 71

1. Take exit 165, State Route 97 East through Bellville and Butler.
2. At the stoplight in Butler continue straight on 97 another 6 miles to McCurdy Road.
3. Turn left. Take McCurdy two miles to Goon Road.
4. Turn right on Goon Road and go 1/4 mile.
5. Turn left into the Mohican resort driveway, going 1 1/2 miles to the resort.

Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative
First Annual Workshop
November 17-18 2004
Mohican State Park Conference Center

The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) held its first annual workshop on 17-18 November 2004 at the Mohican State Park Conference Center near Loudenville, Ohio. Planning for the workshop was done by Paul Rodewald (Ohio State University), Julie Shieldcastle (Black Swamp Bird Observatory), John Ritzenthaler (Audubon Ohio), David Scott (OH Division of Wildlife), Scott Hull (OH Division of Wildlife), and Jim McCormac (OH Division of Wildlife). Greg Butcher (Audubon) facilitated workshop discussions. There were approximately 60 attendees at the workshop representing state agencies (OH Division of Wildlife; OH Div. of Forestry; OH Div. of Parks and Recreation; and OH Div. of Natural Areas and Preserves), federal agencies (U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), county park districts, numerous non-governmental organizations (e.g. Audubon Ohio, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, League of Ohio Sportsmen, The Nature Conservancy, Ruffed Grouse Society), and universities and colleges (Ohio State University and Hiram College).

The main objectives of the workshop were:

1. ***Providing Information***—To overview: (1) continental bird conservation plans such as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan, North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and game bird plans, (2) regional conservation plans such as Joint Venture and Bird Conservation Region plans, and (3) current bird conservation projects in Ohio.
2. ***Understanding***—To help conservation partners understand how national and regional planning and priorities can be related to on-the-ground avian conservation for Ohio.
3. ***Prioritizing Habitats/Species***—To review the status, trends, and threats for grassland, wetland, forest habitats and their associated bird species within Ohio and to identify priority areas and species to focus conservation attention.
4. ***Committee Objectives***—To discuss priority objectives for OBCI Committees (Research and Monitoring, Habitat Assessment and Management, Outreach, Bird-based Recreation, and Current Events) and work to build committee membership.

WORKSHOP DAY 1

The primary emphasis for day 1 of the workshop was to provide information to attendees about continental bird conservation plans, discuss how plans may be related to bird conservation in Ohio, and summarize ongoing bird conservation efforts in the state. Bob Russell (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) spoke about the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. Randy Dettmers (U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Service) overviewed the North American Landbird Conservation Plan. Greg Soulliere (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) spoke about the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Joint Venture Program. Scott Hull (Ohio Division of Wildlife) discussed game bird plans, especially the Northern Bobwhite Quail plan. And Greg Butcher (Audubon) summarized the North American Bird Conservation Initiative and Bird Conservation Regions, using BCR 22, Tallgrass Prairie, as an example.

In the afternoon on day 1, seven additional presenters from various governmental and non-governmental groups summarized ongoing bird conservation efforts in Ohio. Each of the talks was followed with time for attendees to ask questions. David Scott (OH Division of Wildlife) spoke about the Division of Wildlife's Strategic Plan and Wildlife Habitat Focus Areas. Alicia Craig gave a short presentation about her work with the Bird Conservation Alliance. Julie Shieldcastle (Black Swamp Bird Observatory) presented information about BSBO's conservation and research activities. Katrina Schultes (U.S. Forest Service) talked about bird conservation activities on the Wayne National Forest in southern Ohio. Peter Whan (The Nature Conservancy) discussed TNC's work throughout Ohio, with an emphasis on some of his efforts in the Edge of Appalachia Preserve. Jenny Finfera spoke about bird conservation work done by Toledo Metroparks in the Oak Openings region of northwest Ohio. John Ritzenthaler (Audubon Ohio) spoke about the Audubon's mission in Ohio, including his work coordinating the Important Bird Areas program.

WORKSHOP DAY 2

The main objectives for day 2 were to discuss priority areas and species on which OBCI should focus its efforts, and have a discussion about OBCI committee objectives. Day 2 began with Randy Dettmers (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) who gave a short presentation on species prioritization. His talk was followed by a series of three 1-hour discussions focused on setting conservation priorities for primary habitats in Ohio (grassland, wetland, and shrubland/forest). Scott Hull (OH Division of Wildlife) reviewed the status, trends, and threats for grassland birds and habitats in Ohio. Bob Gates (Ohio State University) presented on Ohio wetland birds and habitats and how continental population goals and habitat objectives may be stepped down to local/regional objectives. Amanda Rodewald (Ohio State University) presented information on the status of Ohio's forests and population trends and threats of forest and shrubland birds in Ohio.

Following each of these talks there was group discussion that focused on identifying priority areas for bird conservation in Ohio. Joni Downs (Ohio State University) presented computerized maps for each of the three main habitats. Her maps displayed existing conservation areas throughout the state and workshop attendees identified additional priority areas on the map. In the discussions, broad support developed for the idea that OBCI should develop several project focus areas in Ohio to which OBCI supporters can contribute their efforts. Such efforts could include education/outreach activities, promoting bird-based recreation, habitat management or restoration, population monitoring, and research. The nature of the project focus area groups and exactly what they should accomplish will depend on the area and the interests of the individuals/organizations involved. It was mentioned that there is a need for oversight from the Executive Council and input from various OBCI committees. Initially, work will be limited to a smaller number of focus areas and possibilities include NE Ohio forests, western grasslands and wetlands, southeast strip mine

grasslands, southern forests. Stan Searles (Cleveland Metroparks Zoo) agreed to host a January meeting at the Cleveland Zoo for the Northeast Ohio forest area to discuss potential goals and objectives. Other individuals will be identified to lead other project area groups.

In the afternoon, chairs of OBCI committees reported on the status of their committees. These reports included lists of current committee members and tentative committee objectives. Discussion focused on generating additional objectives for each committee. Current chairs include Scott Hull (Research and Monitoring), Outreach (John Ritzenthaler), and Current Events (Audrey Mayer). Paul Rodewald announced that he has been unable to locate a chair for Habitat Assessment and Management, but agreed to serve as interim chair until someone is identified. Peter Whan (TNC) agreed to chair the Bird-based Recreation committee. There was discussion about whether or not the Research/Monitoring and Habitat Assessment/Management committees should remain separate given that overlap in objectives may exist. Similarly, some individuals felt there was overlap between Bird-based Recreation and Outreach committees. Therefore it was suggested that these committee pairs meet together, at least for their first meeting. Committees will meet by January and will report on their progress at the next Coordinating Council meeting (~ March 2005).

MISC.

Following the workshop, Paul Rodewald (OBCI Chair) convened a brief meeting of the OBCI Coordinating Council. He announced that he would work with others in OBCI to seek funding commitments for a full-time OBCI Coordinator by the end of the year. Once funding is located the position will be advertised (hopefully by February/March 2005).

Additional information on the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative can be found at OBCI's web site: <http://www.obcinet.org/>.