

*Bird
Conservation
Network*

BCN Quarterly Meeting—Minutes
Chicago Center for Green Technology, Chicago, IL
January 19, 2008

Attendees: Annette Prince, Mary Lou Mellon, **CBCM**; Sigrid Schmidt, **COS**; Glenn Gabanski, Bob Fisher, Eric Secker, **DBC**; Suzanne Checchia, **ENSBC**; Mary Ann Harrison, **IAS**; Joan Bruchman, **IOS**; Gail Taxy, Jean Sodemann, **Lake-Cook Chapter IAS**; Judy Pollock, **NAS-CW**; Dick Riner, **Thorn Creek Audubon**; Donnie Dann, **TNC**; Jenny Vogt, guest.

President Dick Riner called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. He introduced Sarah Beazley of the Department of the Environment, City of Chicago.

A quorum was established with 14 representatives from 10 member organizations present.

1. Election: Judy Pollock, head of the nominating committee, announced that Dick Riner, having completed his term of president, will not stand for re-election due to health reasons. Judy Pollock, head of the nominating committee, explained that as this was a recent development there is no candidate for president. Judy suggested that the slate be voted upon without the president. This was moved, seconded and agreed to unanimously. The slate of Joan Bruchman, vice-president, Glenn Gabanski, treasurer, and Mary Lou Mellon, secretary, was voted upon and elected unanimously. The new nominating committee of Judy, Bob Fisher and Lee Ramsey will search for a presidential candidate. Joan Bruchman, vice president, took over running the meeting.

2. Minutes: Mary Lou Mellon, secretary. The November 3, 2007, Quarterly Meeting Minutes were approved as written by voice vote and are posted on the BCN website at www.bcnbirds.org.

3. Chicago Bird Agenda: Sarah Beazley, DOE, City of Chicago. Sarah presented the highlights of the Chicago Bird Agenda, which was created in 2005, released in 2006 and is being continually implemented. She provided hard and digital copies of the agenda as well as handed out literature on

reducing bird collisions with existing buildings, bird-safe building design and a habitat guide for land owners for enhancing property for birds. Member clubs can request additional copies of these pieces from Sarah's office.

BCN enthusiastically thanked Mayor Daley, Sarah and the Department of Environment for providing leadership on this important issue.

4. Treasurer's Report: Glenn Gabanski handed out renewal packets for each of the 18 member organizations, including the 2007 accomplishments letter and bill for membership dues, which are due by March 31, 2008. BCN ended 2007 with a \$130 deficit, which was the goal. Glenn presented the 2008 budget. Judy Pollock noted that in the past National Audubon has absorbed the cost of copying expenses because it had a grant to cover it. The grant no longer exists, so BCN should plan approximately \$300 more in its budget to cover this. The money exists in the budget, so no change was necessary. The budget was voted upon and accepted unanimously.

5. BCN Bird Trends Analysis: Eric Secker. Eric reported that the analysis is into its final phase and is going very well. They hope to have rough data within a week or two. He hopes to be able to put together a new slideshow with data from 2004-2007. It may be ready by the April 2008 BCN meeting.

6. BCN Bird Census and Census Workshops: Judy Pollock. Judy began by acknowledging Dick Riner's leadership as president of BCN and an ongoing bird conservationist. The acknowledgement was enthusiastically received.

Lee Ramsey and Judy have set up new partners for bird censusing this year in Lake County, Kane County and Highland Park. Flyers will be emailed Monday identifying the training workshop dates and locations. Monitors are needed everywhere. She asked all reps to recruit monitors from their clubs. All that is required is attendance at a 3-hour workshop and then 2 visits to one's assigned site in June. It was pointed out that even experienced monitors could benefit from attendance at the workshops.

Jenny Vogt volunteered to duplicate the Cornell bird song CD for the birding-by-ear training sessions, but will hold off till Bob Fisher contacts Cornell once again for approval to duplicate this copyrighted CD.

7. Bartel Grasslands: Judy reported that BCN and member organizations have been asked to write letters of support for expansion at Bartel that will nearly double the size of Bartel. This is O'Hare expansion mitigation. Support was voted upon and was unanimous. Letters should go the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

8. Jerry Kumery Resolution: Bob Fisher. Bob read an eloquent tribute to deceased bird photographer Jerry Kumery. The resolution was approved by voice vote and will be posted on the website. It is included at the end of the minutes as Appendix 1

9. Deer Green Paper: Bob Fisher's paper has been distributed to the member reps for presentation to their clubs. Deer overpopulation directly affects bird populations negatively. The paper was voted on and approved unanimously. It will be posted on the BCN website.

10. Legal Issues Affecting Birds: Donnie Dann. iSPACE, Illinois Special Places Acquisition, Conservation and Enhancement Program, the \$100 million proposal for environmental improvement, remains under consideration. The Conservation Stewardship Program was signed into law in 2007. It provides tax relief for land parcels over 5 acres that are not used for commercial purposes. Land that qualifies will be taxed at only 5%. Re Rollins Savannah and snowmobiling: fortunately the lack of snow has kept this to a low urgency, but it still is an issue that needs to be settled. Scientists agree that birds and snowmobiles are not compatible. The issue is ongoing. Cook County has passed a law allowing feral cat colonies. Donnie is working with Audubon, ABC to promote implementation of this law in a way that will minimize impact to birds.

11. Raptor Corridor Support and TNC Restoration Project: Dick Riner. Dick has sent a letter on behalf of BCN in support of Kittatinny Ridge, a globally significant migratory flyway conservation area under pressure of developments and further fragmentation. Also he has attended meetings of the Great Lakes TNC's GIS mapping of priority migratory bird habitat stopovers in the Chicago Wilderness region.

12. Lost Mound Workday: Judy Pollock. The flyer is prepared for this first-time project for BCN. The plan is to cut cedars from the open fields to return the land to good bird habitat. It was decided that a Sunday is a good

choice, so that those who wish could drive out the day before and bird Palisades before the workday on Sunday. Judy will check May 18th and June 1st with Ed Britton at Lost Mound.

13. Wheeling Retention Pond: Dick Riner and Joan Bruchman. The 17-story Westin Hotel in Wheeling wants to remove its water retention pond and use the area for additional parking. They propose to create a new retention pond in the nearby Forest Preserve Property. Clearly this is a misuse of Forest Preserve Property. Dick has sent a letter on behalf of BCN to Commissioner Gregg Goslin of the 14th District protesting this proposal. A copy of Dick's letter is to be sent to all club reps so that the clubs can also send letters of protest.

14. Miscellaneous: Bob Fisher: A wind-turbine farm is going up in LaSalle County. There will be 40 square miles covered with 250 400-foot high wind turbines, a major landscape altering project.

Mary Lou Mellon mentioned the award given to Annette Prince, director of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, by Chicago Wilderness Habitat Project. Their awards are known as the Academy Awards of conservationism.

Gail Taxy reported increased vigor at Lake-Cook Chapter of IAS. They have been involved in an initiative to protect mixed habitat at Ft. Sheridan and have taken action against snowmobiling at Rollins Savannah. Rena Cohen of their chapter is going to volunteer as a bird monitor.

15. Next Meeting: Joan Bruchman announced that the next meeting will be on April 19th, location to be announced at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary

Appendix 1

**Tribute to Jerry Kumery, birder, bird photographer extraordinaire,
conservationist,**

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved, January 19, 2008

Whereas, long-time birder/bird photographer Jerry Kumery recently died,
and

Whereas Jerry's bird and nature photography captured and exemplified a
simple but compelling concept: **A picture is worth a thousand
words**...as he generously provided his images for the use and enjoyment
of the birding and bird conservation community, and

Whereas Jerry's images graced the pages of such diverse and widely used
publications as the City of Chicago's Bird Agenda, our own Bird
Conservation Network website, the Chicagoland Birding Trail brochure,
along with many others too numerous to mention. Visitors to diverse
locations including Illinois Beach State Park, Save The Prairie Society and
the Kansas City Children's Library, to name a few, also had the
opportunity to enjoy the beauty of birds and nature through his images on
display, and

Whereas Jerry's image filled presentations, exploring the birdlife and
natural habitats of many locations both in and around Chicago, and
throughout the world, captivated and informed thousands of Midwestern
birders as they vicariously traveled with Jerry during one of his photo
essay journeys.

For these and other good reasons the Bird Conservation Network hereby
pays tribute to Jerry Kumery, recognizing and honoring his contributions
to birding and bird conservation, and resolves that this proclamation be
permanently entered into the website of the Bird Conservation Network.
His vivid images, coupled with his understated presentation style, will be
missed.

BIRD CONSERVATION NETWORK, by

Dick Riner, President

Mary Lou Mellon, Secretary