



*Bird
Conservation
Network*

BCN Quarterly Meeting—Minutes
Saturday, November 1, 2008
60 Ravinoaks Lane, Highland Park, IL

Attendees: Terry Schilling; Bobbi Asher, CAS; Annette Prince, CBCM; Mary Lou Mellon, CBCM; Sigrid Schmidt, COS; Glenn Gabanski, DBC; Bob Fisher, DBC; Eric Secker, DBC; Suzanne Checchia, ENSBC; Mary Anne Harrison, IAS; Joan Bruchman, IOS; Nancy Greenlee, Lake-Cook; Jenny Vogt, NAS-CW; Judy Pollock, NAS-CW; Lee Ramsey, NAS-CW; Donnie Dann, TNC.

President Bob Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:15PM. A quorum was established.

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. The minutes of the July 19, 2008, Quarterly Meeting at Northerly Island were approved as written. The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of October 14, 2008, are posted on the website.
2. Treasurer's Report—Glenn Gabanski. In August BCN changed banks from TCF to National City. Poor service at the TCF bank prompted the change. Both the checking account and the CD were transferred to National City on August 4, 2008.

As of November 1 BCN has \$1,309.04 in the checkbook and \$3,000 in a CD for a total of \$4,309.04. The CD now pays about \$5.60 monthly interest directly into the checking account. After adding the expected interest for the rest of the year and deducting known expenses not yet paid, BCN needs to spend about \$110 to avoid paying any tax in 2008.

A Financial Report and a Membership Report were distributed showing itemized income and expenses and indicating when each membership was renewed. Currently BCN has 19 Organizational Members and 4 Individual Members.

It should be noted that this year BCN paid more of the costs of the monitoring program that, in the previous few years, NAS-Chicago had been paying from a grant that has now

expired. Unless other resources can be found, BCN should expect to cover more of the monitoring costs in future years as well.

In our early years, we received funding through a DNR program, which we could explore as a possibility.

It was decided that BCN will reimburse Audubon Chicago Region for \$91 expended to mail the all-bird issue of *The Illinois Steward* magazine and other information to our monitors. The money we will pay Audubon will largely use up the surplus needed to be spent. If there is any money left over at the end of the year Glenn will use it up buying supplies, like stamps, envelopes, etc.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

3. Membership—Bob Fisher. Kane County's representatives rarely attend BCN meetings. Judy Pollock and Lee Ramsey will attempt to get new representatives designated who might be interested in participating.

Other clubs also pay their dues but rarely if ever attend meetings. McHenry County Audubon was mentioned as a possible new member club.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Advocacy—Donnie Dann. Three good bird conservationists have agreed to join the Advocacy Committee: Chris Williamson (COS), Randi Doecker (Birds and Buildings) and Olive Oh-Lin (Lake Cook Aud). This committee will focus on advocacy for local region bird-oriented issues and will be in charge of signing BCN on to relevant national bird-conservation campaigns.

The widening of Quentin Road appears highly likely and Friends of the Forest Preserve is working to limit the project to 3 lanes instead of 4.

Cats Indoors efforts have centered on trying to get funding to hire someone to run a campaign. Additionally BCN has written and submitted a suggested amendment to the new ordinance that permits feral cat colonies in Chicago Mike Quigley. It keeps getting put on a back burner. Donnie will send a letter to Quigley to try to encourage acceptance of this amendment.

IDNR and INHS update: The Illinois Natural History Survey is no longer a part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), as it is now affiliated with the University of Illinois. This change is viewed as beneficial since the Survey will no longer be subject to the budget constraints that has severely impacted IDNR's mission.

The Wheeling land grab to use 11 acres of Forest Preserve property for a hotel parking lot retention pond has been defeated. Now the village wants to clean up the area, add trails, native plants, parking and use the land to connect to trails along the Des Plaines River.

The reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) remains a high priority national issue.

Bob: Whalon Lake, in Will County FPD, has been opened for fishing. After hearing comments in defense of the area's numerous wintering water fowl, the FPD has agreed to close it for fishing for November 1st to April 1st.

Publicity—Bob. We are seeking people from our membership who can raise awareness of BCN's activities and accomplishments with the public, landowners, land managers and professionals in the field. Please bring candidates to Bob's attention.

Terry Schilling commented that for BCN to get press attention, it must have a newsworthy issue about which to make a statement. Then we must put together press kits containing tapes, letters and press releases to the news media. This requires a substantial budget.

Club sponsored workdays are good items for only local press (i.e., Pioneer), as they are not "hard news."

Eric Secker would like photos of birds and bird-oriented activities. Please forward them to him at esecker@bcnbirds.org.

Monitoring and Research

1. Website Status—Eric. The Trends Analysis statistics are complete and are posted on the website. The methodology paper is not yet finished so the statistics and conclusions are not ready to be promoted.
2. Future Funding--Judy Pollock: Mike Ward, head of Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP), is working with Chicago Wilderness to find funding for a regional monitoring program that would merge BCN and CTAP monitoring. Future analysis would be done by CTAP, relieving BCN of the responsibility to find funding.
3. Bird monitors' meeting—Bob. A bird monitors' meeting to share ideas about where the program is today and where it's going is being planned for this winter. One goal is to broaden the monitor base. Another is to better use our data to promote good habitat management. The idea of an atlas project will be considered. Judy hopes to get Mike Ward to come to describe how to improve data and the collection of data.
4. Lee Ramsey, who posts news items at the beginning of BCN ebird, needs photos and stories for use in this area of the website. Please forward to Lee at leeramsy@comcast.net

Lee also reported that Lake County Forest Preserve District has developed an ambitious monitoring program for all species, headed by Gary Glowacki, wildlife

biologist. There is a forthcoming article about this in the *Habitat Herald*. Lee is attempting to coordinate Lake County bird monitoring with BCN monitoring. There will be a meeting Nov. 17th at Donnie Dann's home at 10am. Member clubs are invited to send reps to this meeting.

5. Judy reports that the Shrubland Bird Blitz data have been sent to Cornell and should be returned this week.

6. Judy: For 2009, blitzing at one to three large sites per county is under consideration. Paul Douglas and Poplar Creek have been suggested.

7. Eric: We need to do more to promote the idea of a breeding season bird count for 2010. Atlasing might get more people involved.

8. A BioBlitz is being planned for the Indiana Dunes by Save the Dunes [see Appendix A, which was provided by Bobbi Asher subsequent to the meeting and was distributed to member reps on Nov. 3rd].

Meetings and Events—Joan. The November 15th Give Back to the Birds Work Day/Field Trip has been posted twice on IBET and 3 times to all member clubs. Attendees will gather seeds and cut down invasive cedars.

Judy is waiting for a date to be set for the Elsen's Hill workday. Work will include planting shrubs and cutting invasive species.

Editorial—Bob.

1. The bird track for the February 7th Wild Things Conference at UIC is nearly complete. Speakers will include Joe Lill, Jeff Walk, Jim Herkert and Vic Berardi. Possibly Doug Stotz will do a presentation of the Trends Analysis.

2. The "best practice" bridge-maintenance paper is being written by Annette Prince, Teri Radke, Bob and Shawn Cirton. It's hoped that the finished paper will apply to structures being razed as well as to bridges. It will need to be publicized.

Other business

- Glenn: Flying Wild is a science curriculum that focuses on the study of birds, with the goal of teaching middle school students the importance of bird conservation and stewardship. It is sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society, which is looking for volunteers to go to workshops to learn to help facilitate Flying Wild activities. (See Appendix B).
- Joan Bruchman: IOS is starting an Illinois Young Birders Club for kids from 10-18 years, planned to be up and running by the end of the year.
- Lee: The November/December edition of *Audubon* magazine has an article titled "Pain in the Glass" about bird collisions. Annette Prince of CBCM is featured prominently.

- Judy: The Audubon office is moving, probably to Evanston, effective Dec. 1st.
- The next BCN Quarterly Meeting will be in the McCormick Room at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Canon Drive, Chicago, on January 17, 2009, from 1 to 4pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Profuse thanks to Jackie and Donnie Dann for their gracious hospitality in once again hosting the fall BCN Quarterly Meeting. Many reps were fascinated by the tour of their home's new green addition prior to the meeting. Not only is the new part of the house beautiful, functional and green, but it features highly sophisticated technology for conserving energy. That's really putting your money where your mouth is. Bravo to Donnie and Jackie!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary

Appendix A Indiana Dunes Bioblitz

Workshop set for May 2009 'BioBlitz'.

A November 10 workshop at Purdue University Calumet [Hammond] sponsored by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, will prepare volunteers for a May 'BioBlitz' to catalog the plants and animals within the national park.

The **National Park Service** and the **National Geographic Society** are holding the BioBlitz during a 24-hour period on May 15-16, when volunteers paired with scientists will record every plant, animal, insect and fungi in the National Lakeshore.

The BioBlitz will be the third in a series of 10 annual such events conducted in partnership with the National Geographic Society as part of the celebration of 100 years of the National Park Service.

The workshop will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Monday, November 10, in the Calumet Conference Center at Purdue Calumet. No registration is required. For more information, call [219] 395-1682.

Appendix B Flying Wild

BCN would like to inform our member organizations of an exciting opportunity to work with the Illinois Audubon Society to help educators complete the Flying Wild curriculum in local middle schools. Flying Wild is a thorough science curriculum that focuses on the study of birds, with the goals of teaching students the importance of bird conservation and stewardship. Created by the Council for Environmental Education, Flying Wild has familiar national sponsors: American Birding Association, American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Wildlife Federation, Partners in Flight, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Local sponsors include the Illinois Audubon Society, Lincoln Park Zoo, and the Environmental Education Association of Illinois.

Birders could assist local teachers by facilitating classroom or outdoor Flying Wild Activities. They could teach students how to photograph birds, use binoculars and scopes, build nest boxes, conduct bird counts, help students complete habitat projects, and coordinate an International Migratory Bird Day festival. Illinois Audubon Society's Executive Director, Tom Clay, said at a recent planning meeting "We birders can share our passion for birds with students!" How cool is that, to pass on our enthusiasm and knowledge to a receptive group of young people!

The next step to bringing Flying Wild to Illinois schools is to train facilitators, which can include volunteers like us, educators, naturalists, and anyone committed to environmental education. Interested birders are asked to attend a facilitator/educator workshop. (See schedule below.)

For more information please go to www.illinoisaudubon.org and click on the Flying Wild icon.

LD-010509

Date: January 15, 2009

Time: 9am to 3pm

Sponsored by: Vermilion County Conservation District

Location: Kennekuk County Park

Cost: \$15

Facilitator: Lara Darling

RS-022709

Date: February 27, 2009

Time: 8am to 2:45pm (Optional Bird Walk 7am-8am)

Sponsored by: Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Location: Danada House & Atrium, 3S501 Naperville Rd, Wheaton

Cost: \$25 (before 11/15/08 - \$30 after) includes breakfast/lunch

Facilitator: Ron Skleney

For information please contact Linda Perry 630.850.8112

JP-032609

Date: March 26, 2009

Time: 8am to Noon

Sponsored by: Forest Preserve District of Will County

Location: Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon

Cost: \$15

Facilitator: Jessica Prince

