

# BCN Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Saturday, January 20, 2013  
North Park Village Nature Center

Attendees: Bobbi Asher, Chris Van Wassenhove, CAS; Mary Lou Mellon, Annette Prince, Teri Radke, CBCM; Jill Niland, COS; Glenn Gabanski, Linda Padera, Bob Fisher, DBC; Suzanne Checchia, Libby Hill, Lloyd Davidson, ENSBC; Mary Anne Harrison, IAS; Joan Bruchman, IOS; Valerie Lewis, LCA; Judy Pollock, Lee Ramsey, NAS-Chicago Region; Joe Van Wassenhove, Peoria AS; Bob Harrison, TCA; Donnie Dann, TNC; Rita Renwick, Lee Witkowski, Will County AS; Terry Schilling, Dawn Smith, individual members.

## *ANNUAL MEETING*

President Joan Bruchman called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. A quorum was established with 22 representatives from 11 member organizations and 2 individual members present.

Introductions were made around the room.

## ADMINISTRATION

1. The minutes of the Saturday, November 3, 2012, meeting at Donnie Dann's house were approved unanimously as posted on the website.
2. Officer Nominations/Election: Judy Pollock reported that the Nominating Committee (Judy, Bob Fisher and Donnie Dann) proposed the following slate of candidates: Mary Lou Mellon, president; Bobbi Asher, vice president; Glenn Gabanski, continuing as treasurer; Teri Radke, secretary. She thanked Mary Lou Mellon and Suzanne Checchia for helping the nominating committee. There were no nominations from the floor. Joan called for a vote and the slate was approved unanimously.

## *QUARTERLY MEETING*

1. Words from the New President: Mary Lou thanked all those who came to the meeting and specifically thanked those who have served in executive positions for the past 3 years. She identified the following for their service to BCN and for their ongoing efforts and presented each with a small gift of a pad of BCN notepaper: president Joan Bruchman; past president Judy Pollock; treasurer Glenn Gabanski; at large members of ExCom Diane Rosenberg, Chris Van Wassenhove and Nancy Tikalsky; Eric Secker; Bob Fisher; Donnie Dann; and Lee Ramsey. She also thanked those who have agreed to serve as officers for the coming year and those who are continuing in their ongoing valuable roles. She also advised that Diane Rosenberg is stepping off ExCom and that Suzanne Checchia is joining ExCom; Nancy Tikalsky and Chris Van Wassenhove will continue on ExCom at large.
2. Treasurer/Membership Report – Glenn. Prior to the meeting copies of the financial spreadsheet, proposed 2013 budget, and membership report were distributed. In 2012 BCN had income of \$8,705.16 and \$1,045.75 in expenses giving a net income of \$7,659.41. The large net balance is mostly due to \$6,705.16 in Redstart Campaign donations, all of which will likely be spent in 2013. At the end of 2012 the checkbook balance was \$11,272.84.
  - By 1/7/13 renewal notices were sent to all 18 Organization Members and the three Individual Members. Dues are due by March 31.
  - The report was approved.
3. Proposed 2013 Budget – Glenn.

- Two line items in the 2013 budget that are new are “Redstart Donations” in income and “Trends Analysis” in Program Expenses.
  - The budget as presented showed \$7,600 for Redstart Donations being a combination of \$6,705 from 2012, \$568 received in 2013, and an anticipated additional \$327 in unpaid pledges. It was pointed out that the \$6,705 from 2012 should not be listed as income in 2013 even though it is part of the ongoing campaign. That line item should read “The \$895 for Redstart Donations is a combination of \$568 received in 2013 and an anticipated additional \$327 in unpaid pledges.”
  - The \$5,300 for Trends Analysis is made up of \$3,800 from the Redstart Campaign and \$1,500 From the BCN checking account. The 2012 Trends Analysis Committee requested that BCN put some of its money into the analysis. Since 2006 BCN has maintained a cash balance of at least \$3,800 and the committee felt it was appropriate that BCN spend some of this money on the analysis.
  - Other line items remain the same or nearly the same as in 2012.
  - The amended report was voted on and approved.
4. 2012 Trends Analysis Committee update – Glenn. Last October the committee put on hold any active planning when it became clear initial estimates from possible contractors were beyond our resources. The committee decided to wait until after the Redstart Campaign was largely completed when we would have a better handle on how much money will be available.

As mentioned in the 2013 Budget Proposal, the committee asked the treasurer to budget \$5,300 for the analysis – \$3,800 from the Redstart donations and \$1,500 from BCN. With \$5,300 in mind the committee finalized an RFP that will be sent out next week. The RFP was read at the meeting and is Appendix A at the end of these minutes.

The committee will also work between now and mid-February to get habitat data from monitors who have not yet submitted that data for their sites.

5. Conflict of Interest Policy – Bobbi Asher and Bob Fisher. The Conflict of Interest Policy (as attached to the minutes of the November 19, 2012, minutes) was voted upon and approved unanimously. It will be appended to the bylaws as Appendix A. The statement “Any appendices are hereby declared to be an integral part of these bylaws” will be added to Article VIII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS as point E. This also was voted upon and approved unanimously.

## FUNDRAISING

1. Redstart Fundraising Campaign Update – Glenn. The campaign is a success! Not only did we reach our goals of \$2,500 in pledges and \$5,000 in donations, we slightly exceeded the goal of \$7,500. As of this date we have: \$2,190.70 out of \$2,500 in paid pledges from 15 of the 18 pledges, \$5,082.56 in paid donations from 45 individuals or organizations, for a grand total of \$7,273.26. When the remaining pledges are paid the total will rise to over \$7,600.

Glenn offered a special note of thanks to Joan Bruchman, Judy Pollock and Bob Fisher who put in extra efforts to promote the fundraising campaign.

Letters acknowledging receipt of each donation for IRS purposes were sent to every individual or organization that donated. After the remaining pledges are received the treasurer will write a check payable to the Community Cloud Forest Conservation for half of the total donations from the Redstart Campaign. Officially the campaign is to run for a year. Any further donations received up to the April anniversary will also be split.

2. Sound Approach Bird Fund Grant – Mary Lou. Every two weeks the website of the Sound Approach Bird Fund is checked. The site continues to state that all funds have now been allocated, but to stay tuned for more news. We will keep checking this possible source of revenue for our new Trends Analysis.
3. Other grant possibility – Judy. Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund usually has funds for its Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program. Mary Lou and Chris Van Wassenhove agreed to try to put something together with Judy's help.

#### ADVOCACY

1. Possible dangers in building design near Montrose Beach, Chicago – Judy. A north lakefront resident contacted Judy with concerns about the windows in a new building going up near Montrose. A small group began to offer advice. Judy referred the matter to Karen Weigart, the city's Sustainability Chief, who had a conversation with the developers. Chris Williamson had a discussion with the architect. The matter remains to be resolved.
2. Senate Bill 3525, titled Sportsman's Act of 2012 – Joan for Donnie. This bill died in the prior congress, but it is expected that the advocates will bring it up again. With the new congress we must stay vigilant. Donnie will keep BCN updated on the issue.
3. Northwestern University – Libby Hill. The money NU paid the city for each tree that it took down to build the new visitor center, as per Evanston's tree ordinance, will be put towards creating bird habitat in Clark Park or another spot along the lake. The glass on the new visitor center/parking garage will be "bird safe" and the landscaping will be kept low so it is not mirrored in the glass of the building. Unfortunately, NU is building a music building at the lake edge and it plans a glass walkway. Judy mentioned that they had agreed to our monitoring it, and then Suzanne mentioned that Peggy McNamara is already monitoring at NU informally.
4. Perkins Woods – Libby Hill. 52 volunteers showed up for the first ecological restoration at that site and a great deal of buckthorn was removed. A second workday was to be held Feb. 9th.
5. Northeastern Illinois University Bird Collisions – Libby Hill. Northeastern Illinois University has a bird collision problem with some of its buildings. She asked if BCN could assist with this. Libby Hill and Teri Radke will follow up.
6. Fishing Line Tube Covers in Du Page County – Linda Padera. Linda thinks that nothing has been done on this issue, but she will follow up.

#### PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

1. Forwarding of Informational Emails to Reps – Mary Lou. It was determined that to avoid cluttering up reps' email inboxes, items of possible interest re birds that are not local issues will be posted on the BCNnet listserv.
2. Chicago Migratory Bird Alliance – Judy. This project is open to any partner who is working to develop habitat for migratory birds in Chicago or to educate others about the same. A website featuring the work of all members has been launched, and it will continue to grow until this fall. Organizations who would like to take advantage of this opportunity to develop or highlight a habitat partnership or project should fill out the attached form and send it to Judy for inclusion on the website. <http://www.habitatproject.org/CMBA/> See Appendix B.
3. Red-headed Woodpecker Blitz – Judy. In 2012, bird blitzers turned their focus to the Red-headed Woodpecker (RHWO), a species of highest conservation priority in our region. We wanted to learn how many nest sites we have in the region, and how many birds, and we wanted to learn more about the habitat structure the birds prefer. Forty-six monitors covered 47 sites and found 32 confirmed nesting pairs and 108 RHWOs total. Of the

27 sites that had been known to have RHWOs in the past, only two did not have RHWOs in 2012. Twelve blitz sites were new RHWO sightings, locations that had not been monitored in the past, so now we have some important new habitat to keep track of. We still have many sites where RHWOs have been sighted in the past, that we'd like to check out, so the blitz will continue this year. A suggestion was made that we enlist the help of golf courses. Contact Judy Pollock to help.

4. FPDCC Outreach to Develop Activities / BCN Participation – Judy/Lee. The Cook County Forest Preserve District is creating a Volunteer Website, expected to go live on January 28, 2013. It advertises volunteer activities in the preserves, including restoration and monitoring groups. Everyone is able to access schedules of activities and sign up to participate in them. The BCN Survey is listed on the website, reached at [FPDCCvolunteers.org](http://FPDCCvolunteers.org), and potential monitors in Cook County can contact us or volunteer through this website.

In addition, we now have an email address for the Survey, [bcnsurvey@gmail.com](mailto:bcnsurvey@gmail.com), and current or potential monitors from anywhere in the BCN area can contact us there.

5. Lake/Cook Audubon Barn Owl Project Update – Valerie Lewis. Two nesting boxes have been placed at Illinois Beach State Park and the man who has taken over the project is trying to place some others on private property.
6. FPDCC Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting – Judy. The District has planned a thorough process to collect feedback about the recreation plan. There are still concerns about an over-emphasis on active recreation options in the plan. Also, at our last meeting Kindy Kruller asked whether the BCN would like to collaborate with the district on birding programs. Jill Niland, Chicago Ornithological Society, Chris Van Wassenhove, Chicago Audubon Society, Libby Hill, Evanston North Shore Bird Club, Bob Harrison, Sand Ridge Audubon, and Bob Fisher, Du Page Birding Club, are interested and Judy will forward their names to Jacqui Ulrich, Director of Events.
7. 2013 Give Back to Birds Day – Judy. Nothing planned at this point. A possible outing to Peoria in fall.
8. 2013 Monitors Brunch – Joan/Lee. The annual bird monitors' walk and picnic brunch will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013, in eastern Kane County, near the town of St Charles. The walk will begin in the morning at one or more forest preserves or parks, followed by a picnic at Hickory Knolls Natural Area (formerly Campton Hills Park). This event, sponsored by the Bird Conservation Network, is free and open to all bird monitors in the Chicago Wilderness area. If you want to make sure you don't miss it, send your name and email address to Joan Bruchman, [pjbruchman@comcast.net](mailto:pjbruchman@comcast.net).
9. Bob Fisher will be giving a presentation on how wind turbines in Lake Michigan might affect birds at Wild Things on February 2, 2013.

The next BCN Quarterly Meeting will be Saturday, April 21, 2013, at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center from 1 to 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lou Mellon  
President

## Appendix A

### **Bird Conservation Network Biological Data Analyst Request for Proposals 2013**

The Bird Conservation Network is seeking proposals for a technician to perform an updated trends analysis of its dataset in collaboration with a set of scientific advisors. The dataset consists of point counts and transects taken during the breeding season in Chicago area natural areas. Our last trends analysis is available at <http://bcnbirds.org/trends07/>

### **Tasks**

- 1) Research and consult with oversight committee and advisors about ways to do the data analysis. Consider the method used for the last analysis and any new ideas proposed by the committee.
- 2) Choose analysis method for the BCN Survey database that will yield reliable and authoritative avian population trend information for the birds of the Chicago Wilderness Region and perform analysis.
- 3) Participate in one planning meeting and one meeting to review preliminary analysis results with members of the oversight committee, and modify analysis method if needed based on those discussions. Make up to two rounds of refinements based on input from review committee.
- 4) Work with web site designer to display information about the analysis method and results of the analysis.
- 5) Write a report presenting the results. The BCN is open to collaborating on a scientific paper if desired.
- 6) Prepare lists of active monitors and compile effort information.

### **Qualifications**

1. Experience with avian statistical analysis.
2. Knowledge of conservation of birds.
3. Excellent organizational and communications skills.
4. Self-starter, shows initiative and independent work habits.

Please send a proposal specifying hourly rate and total cost and a resume detailing pertinent experience to:

Glenn Gabanski  
Bird Conservation Network  
1718 Sherman Av, Suite 210  
Evanston, IL 60201

The proposal deadline is February 15, 2013.

## **Appendix B**

### **Chicago Migratory Bird Alliance**



Dear potential partner,

Some think of wildlife conservation as something that doesn't go on in big cities, but we hope you can help us change that. The City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are teaming up with Audubon and many other conservation and landowner partners to form the Chicago Migratory Bird Alliance. The Alliance will showcase Chicago bird-friendly landscaping and habitat, and will show members how to incorporate features that match their esthetic values yet provide sustenance to the imperiled birds that use stopover habitat in our city. We will offer illustrative design templates, bird-friendly plant lists, and in some cases, site consultations and on-the-ground projects.

We would like to invite you to consider joining the Alliance. If you already have habitat or landscaping that is suitable for migratory birds, joining the Alliance is as simple as sending us some information about your habitat that we can use on the Alliance website. Attached is a form that you can use to do that. There are no fees and no meetings associated with this Alliance – it is simply an effort to promote the good work that the members do to provide migratory bird habitat. The public outreach for the project will involve a website and two public celebrations that recognize partners.

Landscaping that attracts migratory birds is multi-layered and has plants that feed birds during their spring and fall migration. It's as simple as that. The attached page has more information about this type of landscaping, and we would be happy to point you to other resources. Your site does not need to add 11 acres of lakefront prairie like McCormick Place did to be part of the Alliance. During migration season, warblers, kinglets, thrushes, buntings, and other colorful birds land in every block in every neighborhood that has a bit of green. For more information, visit our new website:

<http://www.habitatproject.org/CMBA> .

We hope that you will join this effort, which will make a difference for millions of birds each year. Please email the information to Judy Pollock.

Warm regards, on behalf of the Chicago Migratory Bird Alliance.

Judy Pollock  
Director of Bird Conservation  
Audubon Chicago Region

### **Model Project Information**

- Name and size of bird habitat
- Location; accessibility to public: hours, if any; parking or transportation access; interesting fact about location if appropriate [this all can be a link]
- Describe improvements for birds, date of improvements and/or special maintenance
- birds that use it (before and after, if appropriate)
- a little interesting narrative: someone that enjoys the site: name, photo, quote (a bird story, a before and after story, how does the person enjoy the site, etc.) – or – story about who or what inspired the habitat improvements – or other great story

- total of 1 – 3 photos each site

No more than 350 words, please.

Please email this information to Judy Pollock: [jpollock@audubon.org](mailto:jpollock@audubon.org)

For more information : 847 328-1250.