

**BCN Quarterly Meeting  
Camp Sagawau  
October 21, 2017**

**Attendees:** Bobbi Asher (CAS); Stephanie Beilke (AGL); Mary Bernat (TCA); Suzanne Checchia (ENSBC); Donnie Dann (TNC); Dean Engel (L-CA); Emma England (LCA); Glenn Gabanski (DBC); Jim Herkert (IAS); Matt Iglleski (IOS); Vera Leopold (TWI); Mary Lou Mellon (CBCM); Annette Prince (CBCM); Lee Ramsey (AGL); Diane Rosenberg (LCA); Eric Secker (KCA); Ron Skleney (DBC); Daniel Suarez (AGL); David Taliaferro (L-CA); Nancy Tikalsky (COS); David Willard (CAS). **Guests:** Tim Balassie (BCN survey); Jeff Rugg (BCN Survey)

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Approve minutes of the July 22, 2017 meeting:

Moved: Dann

Second: Leopold

Action: Passed

**Advocacy Report – Donnie Dann**

Since the previous meeting in July 2017, BCN has advocated the following.

I must repeat, individually, we all must be advocates, whenever possible, signing petitions, contacting legislators, and otherwise speaking up for birds. They badly need help.

My understanding (as I haven't been personally involved) is that many BCN folks have been active regarding proposed developments at Jackson Park. I suggest President Willard give a report thereon.

Wrote to the well-known architectural firm, Goettsch Partners, regarding a proposed development near North and Chicago Avenues and told them they're building a bird-killer. Dann described the sad story of SB 641 at some length and suggested that the BCN President establish a sub-committee that would brainstorm ideas for BCN to be a more effective advocate for bird conservation. If anyone would be interested in serving on such a committee, please contact Dave Willard, [dwillard@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:dwillard@fieldmuseum.org).

Sign on to ABC letter Supporting Sage Grouse Conservation.

Sign on to Center for Biological Diversity Letter opposing firearm provisions of Sportsmen's Heritage Act.

**Treasurer's Report- Glenn Gabanski**

2017 Income:

Dues:	\$2,070
Donations:	\$897.50
Total:	\$2,967.50

2017 Expenses:

Misc.:	\$315.85 (same as in July 2017 report)
NFWF Grant:	\$11,480.91
Total:	\$11,796.76

Net Income: \$8,829.26 Loss due only to NFWF Grant expenses paid in 2017 with income from 2016.

BCN gain is \$2,651.65. However, BCN still needs to pay the \$1,000 pledge to the NFWF Grant.

Checkbook balance as of 8/21/17: \$11,520.97. The balance is inflated due to about \$2,800 in grant expenses still to be paid in 2017.

BCN gratefully acknowledges a donation of \$100 from Bobbi Asher who donated the stipend she received from leading a bird walk.

Funds Balance as of 7/22/17: \$6596.02. This is the BCN balance after adjusting for expected amounts receivable and payable. Note that this reflects funds available after the \$1,000 pledge to NFWF Grant is paid in 2017.

Trends Analysis Reserve Fund Balance: \$1,500. This money, still in the checking account balance, is in addition to the Funds Balance, and is held in reserve for the next trends analysis.

### **Membership Report – Glenn Gabanski**

All members paid their dues by the June 30 deadline. Membership remains at 21 organizations and 2 Individual memberships.

### **ExCom report – Dave Willard**

Three electronic meetings were conducted by the Executive Committee between quarterly meetings. Willard read the minutes from these meetings and they are posted on the BCN website.

BCN Executive Committee Meeting, July 25 – August 1, 2017 – review of the bylaws regarding the appointment of a Nominating Committee Chair.

BCN Executive Committee Meeting, August 2-4, 2017 – acceptance of Vicky Sroczyński, a member of the BCN Survey Council and of the CW Grassland Bird Taskforce, to be the point person for BCN on the Lorig Construction's application for a conditional permit to process (recycle) asphalt at 9900 S. Route 83.

BCN Executive Committee Meeting, October 11-13, 2017 – unspent balance from NFWF grant to be used for a web page explaining the protocol and study results, to be connected to the BCN website.

### **Bylaws amendment – Gabanski**

This is a proposal to amend Article V, Section 2, of the BCN Bylaws by adding additional language to the end of the first sentence.

Proposed change: (The underlined is the new language.)

#### ARTICLE V – Committees

Section 1. The President shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, the chairpersons of all committees, except for the Nominating Committee.

Rationale: There is conflicting language in sections 2 and 3 of Article V as it concerns how the chair of the Nominating Committee is approved. In section 2, the bylaws state:

The President shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, the chairpersons of all committees.

In Section 3 the bylaws state:

A Nominating Committee and its chairperson shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of BCN, at least 90 days in advance of the first meeting of the calendar year.

The conflict is that Section 2 requires the vote of the Executive Committee to approve a chairperson for all committees while Section 3 requires the vote of BCN to approve the chair of the Nominating Committee. The use of the word "all" in Section 2 suggests that clause covers the Nominating Committee, but Section 3 clearly states it is BCN (meaning the representatives) and not the Executive Committee that must approve the chair of the Nominating Committee.

In discussion with someone who wrote the original bylaws there was agreement that there is an obvious conflict not noticed in all the years since the bylaws were first adopted. The idea when the bylaws were written was that Section 3 supersedes Section 2. The Nominating Committee chair should be voted on by the whole BCN. The reason is that most other committees would be issue or task oriented, while the Nominating Committee effectively determines the next group of officers. That's why it's in a separate paragraph.

The proposed amendment would eliminate any conflict by clearly exempting the chair of the Nominating Committee from being approved by just the Executive Committee.

Motion: BCN approves the following change to amend Article V, Section 2 of the bylaws: The President shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, the chairpersons of all committees, except for the Nominating Committee.

Moved: Mellon

Second: Rosenberg

Action: Passed

Motion: BCN appoints Nancy Tikalsky as head of the Nominating Committee for the 2018 slate of officers.

Moved: Bernat

Second: Asher

Action: Pass

### **Lorig Asphalt Plant – Vicky Sroczynski, read by Willard**

BCN filed a letter of opposition 9/26/17. The next two hearings, 12/12 and 12/19, cover more expert witnesses for the objector. The petitioner rebuts in January. Public comment starts January 25 and will take up the entire hearing on 2/1/18. On that night, we may need some support, which I can solicit in January. After that, the Zoning Board of Appeals will rule, and send the issue on to the whole DuPage County Board. We may still have a chance to protest at that point.

### **Orland Grassland - Mary Bernat**

The Orland Grassland Preserve was designated an Important Bird Area by National Audubon Society.

### **Local opposition to Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area - Mary Bernat**

The bi-state 30,000-acre Grand Kankakee Marsh National Wildlife Refuge that was authorized in 1999 was stalled by the Indiana Farm Bureau and others opposed to federal involvement on local lands. In 2016 the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area was established in Illinois with the donation of 66-acre Kolar Savanna from Friends of the Kankakee. The goal of the Refuge is to maintain, restore and connect public and private conservation lands to benefit wildlife in three Planning Units: the bottomland hardwood forest and wet meadows in the Momence Wetlands along the Kankakee River (for breeding dabbling ducks and wetland birds of concern) and the black oak savannas and grasslands in SE Kankakee and NE Iroquois counties (for grassland and savanna birds). Lands owned by FWS are open to the public for recreation, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education and interpretation. There is plenty of local support, including Iroquois County. The Kankakee County Farm Bureau leads a propaganda campaign that is grounded in accusations of non-transparency and fans the flames of local mistrust of the federal government by claiming the Refuge will create a mosquito-filled swamp that will flood neighboring properties, will affect the economy, schools and individual property rights, will cause decreasing property values and will restrict access to recreation. In Momence, signs saying "Save Momence No Refuge" demonstrate the exaggeration being used to scare people. The Kankakee County Board opposes the Refuge. Despite a core of conservation-minded supporters in Pembroke Township, the current mayor of Hopkins Park stands opposed to the Refuge. Voters in Pembroke Township passed a referendum last year that opposed TNC's purchase of additional land. Meetings continue between representatives of Pembroke-Hopkins Park, FWS and conservation groups. Birders are encouraged to schedule field trips to the Planning Units, patronize local businesses while wearing binoculars, talk with locals about the great wildlife of the area yet not mention the Refuge itself since it's a polemic issue. Interested birders should write letters of support as individuals and from our organizations.

### **Chicago Wilderness Grassland Bird-Habitat Management Associations Project Proposal – Stephanie Beilke**

#### **Goal Summary:**

Audubon Great Lakes (AGL), Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) and leaders of the Bird Conservation Network's (BCN) Volunteer Network, in cooperation with multiple landowners of the seven counties of the Chicago Wilderness (CW) Region, propose a grassland bird habitat management associations project. We propose to synthesize CW grassland bird data (collected by counties and BCN volunteers) and associate bird data with habitat management data provided by county land managers. This data synthesis and analysis will allow us to identify gaps in grassland bird data and use this information to inform future monitoring in coordination with county land managers. Results of the analysis will be reported in annual, collaborative "State of the Grasslands" reports provided to land managers.

#### **Proposed collaborators and roles:**

- AGL: Oversight of grassland bird data compilation and GIS spatial data management, reporting
- IAS: Habitat association analysis
- BCN Volunteer Network, National Audubon Society & Illinois Audubon Society Chapter Networks – data collection and sharing

- CW Grassland Bird Task Force, including NE IL County Forest Preserve Districts (Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, Will) – data collection and sharing

#### **Fall/Winter 2017 Objectives: Preliminary Data Collection and Analysis**

1. Communication will be established with partnering organizations and County land managers in seven CW counties. (AGL, IAS)
2. Regular meetings and updates with partners will be coordinated through the CW Grassland Bird Task Force.
3. BCN Volunteer Network will provide eBird data to AGL.
4. AGL will synthesize bird data and associate with habitat management data in GIS.
5. IAS will conduct bird/habitat management association analysis.
6. AGL will manage reporting in coordination with collaborating partners.

#### **Winter/Spring 2018 Objectives: Data Coverage Assessment**

1. Identify gaps in grassland bird data collection coverage (AGL, IAS).
2. Reconvene individually with County land managers & BCN county coordinators to assess the best way to fill in data gaps in each county (AGL, IAS).

#### **Summer 2018 Objectives and Beyond: Next Steps**

Through this project, we intend to create a process for combining grassland bird data and management practices at a regional scale to inform best practices in the CW Region. In addition, we plan for this data synthesis to be updated annually to continually provide insight into how changes in management strategies affect bird populations. Further, this project will provide an open platform for county land managers and volunteer representatives to interact and provide feedback to one another with the goal of improving grassland bird habitat and populations.

#### **Urban Treaty Grant – Judy Pollock**

Eric Secker will update the BCN website with information about our monitoring protocol and results. The Urban Wildlife Institute has completed the data analysis and is submitting an invoice. Final payments to Judy and Eric will complete the grant activities and a final report will be written. Project highlights can be presented at the next meeting.

#### **Birdthepreserves – Judy Pollock**

Chicago Audubon Society is working with #birdthepreserves on a report on “Bird Conservation in the Forest Preserves” which will use BCN data to produce maps of species of concern in the preserves. Success stories and best practices used will be part of the report.

#### **Northwestern University collision monitoring program – Suzanne Checchia**

Bird deaths from window collisions on NU's Evanston campus have been a known fact of life for many years, but until recently they've shown little inclination to act on our concerns. That changed earlier this year when Allison Sloan, a member of Bird-Friendly Evanston's advocacy group presented them with photos of 82 dead or injured birds she collected from one building, the new glass behemoth, Kellogg Global Hub, over a 2-1/2-week period last spring.

Responding to the university's expressed concerns, I suggested that Allison tell them about the American Bird Conservancy's Glass Collisions Program and suggest they contact its director, Christine Sheppard. NU brought Chris in from Washington for a day. She taught them about bird

collisions and walked them around campus pointing out specific problem areas and possible solutions. NU's response was very positive; they said they wanted to become the national leader in bird safety!

Subsequently, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors agreed to conduct a serious monitoring effort this fall, to gather baseline data that would document the scope of the problem and help in evaluating the impact of any corrective steps taken. Annette Prince and I developed protocols for the project. I recruited a team of monitors from CBCM, ENSBC and Bird-Friendly Evanston. We started monitoring 12 problem buildings in mid-August.

This week our efforts paid off, when a window film firm (Clear View Solutions West) hired by the university applied bird strike prevention films to all the windows of Frances Searle Building, which has historically killed many birds. They applied a different style of film to a problem area of Kellogg Global Hub and asked for data from us that will help them pinpoint other problem areas on the building to treat. This is a great start to what we hope will be many more building fixes that will save many bird lives.

### **Bird-friendly Evanston - Judy Pollock**

A small group has formed that has taken the name Bird Friendly Evanston. The group is working with aldermen to introduce either a bird-friendly buildings ordinance or a resolution. They are having success working with the city to meet with developers at the earliest stages of a project. Conversations with developers have been interesting and have allowed us to understand their perspective.

### **Chimney Swift Project Update – David Taliaferro**

Three towers for Chimney Swifts were erected by Lake-Cook chapter of IAS in cooperation with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC). These are in Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook, and Camp Reinberg in Palatine. No birds are known to have nested yet, but Chimney Swifts have been spotted during the day near the tower at Crabtree. The FPDCC will continue to monitor the progress of tower usage for nesting and roosting and Lake-Cook members will follow up with staff to report back on progress.

### **New Business**

The next BCN meeting will be held on Jan. 20, 2018, location TBD.

### **Adjournment**

Motion: BCN approved adjournment.

Moved: Engel

Second: Pollock

Action: Passed

Submitted by Christine Williamson, Recording Secretary