

**Bird Conservation Network Meeting
January 20, 2018
Heller Nature Center, Highland Park, IL**

Attendees: Bobbi Asher (CAS), Stephanie Beilke (AGL), Mary Bernat (TCA), Suzanne Checchia (ENSBC), Sonny Cohen (Lake-Cook), Stephen Constantelos (ENSBC), Bob Fisher (IAS), Glenn Gabanski (DBC), Vera Leopold (TWI), Mary Lou Mellon (CBCM), Tom Mulcahy (DBC), Judy Pollock (IOS), Annette Prince (CBCM), Lee Ramsey (AGL), Diane Rosenberg (LCA), Terry Schilling (Individual), Eric Secker (KCA), Jean Sodeman (Lake-Cook), Dave Taliaferro (Lake-Cook), Nancy Tikalsky (COS), Jenny Vogt (AGL), Chris VanWassenhove (CAS), Dave Willard (CAS), Christine Williamson (COS), Lee Witkowski (WCA), Ted Wolf (IOS)

ANNUAL MEETING

Introductions

Administration

A quorum was established.

Approval of October 21, 2017 BCN meeting minutes

Motion: Bird Conservation Network approves the minutes of the October 21, 2017 meeting.

Moved: Tikalsky

Second: Checchia

Action: Passed

Outgoing President's remarks – Dave Willard

Willard highlighted BCN's successes throughout his tenure as president and thanked BCN representatives and officers for their hard work on behalf of the organization.

2018 Officer Nominations/Election – Nancy Tikalsky

Motion: Bird Conservation Network approves the following slate of officers for 2018 as proposed by the Nominating Committee:

President – Terry Schilling

Vice President – Nancy Tikalsky

Treasurer – Glenn Gabanski

Secretary – Stephen Constantelos

Moved: Tikalsky

Second: Fisher

Action: Passed

Contact information for new BCN secretary; Stephen Constantelos 630/890-8956
sbconstant@hotmail.com

Motion: Bird Conservation Network offers its profound thanks to Dave Willard for his wonderful work as president of BCN.

Moved: Fisher

Second: Gabanski
Action: Moved

Motion: Bird Conservation Network approves adjournment of the annual meeting.
Moved: Gabanski
Second: VanWassenhove
Action: Passed

QUARTERLY MEETING

Treasurer's Report – Glenn Gabanski

2017 Income:

Dues:	\$2,070.00
Donations:	\$897.50
Total:	\$2,967.50

2017 Expenses:

BCN:	\$1,013.50
NFWF Grant:	\$15,326.61
Total:	\$16,340.11

Net Income: (\$13,372.61) Loss due to NFWF Grant expenses paid in 2017 with income from 2016.

BCN gain is \$964.00 after paying the \$1,000 pledge to the NFWF Grant. Most of this gain is from unexpected donations.

Checkbook balance as of 12/31/17: \$6,977.62

Funds Balance as of 12/31/17: \$5,477.62. This is the BCN balance after adjusting for the Trends Analysis Reserve Fund Balance of \$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

Dues renewal invoices were sent out to all members by 1/9/18. Membership remains at 21 organizations and two individual memberships. Gabanski said a number of BCN member groups have paid their dues.

Approval of 2018 Budget – Glenn Gabanski

Projected 2018 budget

Total income: \$2,400 (\$2,070 from dues, \$330 in estimated donations)
Total expenses: \$2,400 (\$350 for fees and dues; \$350 for Monitor Brunch; \$600 for web hosting and webmaster retainer; \$500 for Trends Analysis Reserve Fund; \$600 in miscellaneous category.)

Many expenses are token estimates as expenses for many line items are highly variable.

Budget is balanced, but could change depending on unexpected donations or expenses.

\$500 is transferred to the Trends Analysis Reserve Fund, but remains in the checkbook.

BCN Funds Balance at the end of 2018 is projected to be around \$5,800.

Motion: Bird Conservation Network approves the 2018 budget as presented.

Moved: Checchia

Second: Pollock

Action: Passed

By-laws Change Final Vote – Glenn 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. This amendment was introduced, discussed, and voted on at the 10/21/17 meeting. It passed with a majority vote. At today's meeting it now must receive a two-thirds majority vote to be adopted.

Proposed changes

(The underlined is the new language.)

ARTICLE V – Committees

Section 2. 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: The Bird Conservation Network approves the bylaw changes as presented.

Moved: Tikalsky

Second: Checchia

Action: Passed

BCN meeting locations – Suzanne Checchia

Two of BCN's frequently used meeting places are no longer available and new options are needed, said outgoing BCN secretary, Suzanne Checchia.

She asked that BCN member group representatives provide suggestions for new meeting spots in their territories to BCN's new secretary.

Requirements include a meeting room available at no charge with capacity for between 25 – 30 people, with convenient free or inexpensive parking.

Checchia stressed that meeting locations should be varied throughout greater Chicagoland area in fairness to BCN reps regarding travel.

Advocacy

Advocacy Report - Donnie Dann and Terry Schilling

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

I must repeat yet again that we all must be advocates, whenever possible, signing petitions, contacting your elected officials, request a meeting to get to know them, and otherwise speaking up for birds. They badly need help.

"No brainer" local, national and international letters of support and sign-ons, including

- I attended a meeting of the Planning, Building and Zoning committee of the Lake County Board regarding encouraging developers, owners and architects, on a voluntary basis to employ voluntary efforts to make new construction use bird friendly guidelines. The issue is pending.
- The City of Highland Park sold one of the community golf courses to the Park District which is converting into a nature area. I introduced the Natural Areas Manager to Shawn Graff, an ABC V.P. with knowledge and experience on the issue. The outcome should be terrific.
- Supported resolutions in the Illinois General Assembly opposing lead in schools and carbon dioxide in the environment.

More information is available at the following links:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=75&GAID=14&GA=100&DocTypeID=HJR&LegID=107655&SessionID=91>

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=540&GAID=14&GA=100&DocType=D=HR&LegID=107492&SessionID=91>

- Spread the information about ABC's Songbird Saver (changing tower lighting) and made calls to tower owners in the area.
- Opposed Dynegy Energy's effort (**Senate Bill 2250**/House Bill 4141) to prop up its financially ailing coal-fired power plants.
- Wrote a thank you letter to Chicago's Streets and Sanitation Commissioner Charles Williams for his opposition to using feral cats for the city's rat control efforts.
- Added BCN to sign-on letter by ABC opposing detrimental changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Signed on to a letter promoted by a number of environmental organizations opposing a bill that would weaken the ESA.
- Signed on to a National Wildlife Federation letter supporting American Prairie Conservation Act that would protect native grasslands.

BCN Alert Newsletter – Bob Fisher

Fisher proposed the creation of a merged membership list containing emails of interested members from BCN member organizations. The goal is to simplify and shortcut the current outreach process when a time-sensitive bird conservation issue arises that individuals could take action on, such as calling legislators or speaking at a public hearing.

Beilke, Cohen, Fisher, Leopold, Secker and Schilling volunteered to join the committee.

Conservation Initiatives

Chicago Wilderness Membership/representation on the CW Executive Council – Bob Fisher and Glenn Gabanski

Fisher and Dann proposed that BCN designate a representative to the CW Executive Council. Such a step requires that person and his/her alternate (when necessary) to attend CW ExCouncil meetings and participate in active CW committees.

Pollock said Friends of the Forest Preserves has become CW's fiscal agent and is beginning to resume many of the organization's functions.

BCN has been a dues-paying member of CW for many years, but its \$50 membership fee previously was too small to give BCN a seat on the executive council, Gabanski said. In the newly re-formed CW, membership on the EC now requires only that an organization be a CW member for at least one year and commit to active participation on the EC.

The group supported the proposal and Dann and Fisher were named to represent BCN to CW.

Oak Ecosystems Recovery Working Group – Judy Pollock

The Red-headed Woodpecker Priority Species Working Group was folded into the Oak Ecosystems Recovery Working Group. Emma England, Vera Leopold and Steve Mitten have joined to the working group.

BCN Survey – Judy Pollock

Chris Monaghan now fulfills data requests from the BCN survey data. He assumed the role from Becky Rossoff. BCN will thank Rossoff with a letter and a bird print by Jenny Vogt.

Secker is working with Monaghan to post 2017 BCN survey data online.

BCN survey data is being used to map the presence of birds of concern in Cook County. A draft of the map will be available soon, Pollock said.

BCN Trends Analysis – Bob Fisher

Fisher proposed to raise money, seek bids for data entry and analysis, and set a timetable to update the BCN bird species population trends report by adding the most recent five years of monitoring data (through 2017) to the analysis.

Schilling suggested that the Executive Committee should explore the issue of the trends update. A committee also was formed to oversee the management of the trends database, England, Gabanski and Pollock will serve on the committee.

Beilke said the Midwest Avian Database has a suite of analytical tools which might be helpful.

Secker, who completed the first two trends analyses, is willing to take on the project again. He will send a proposal to Schilling.

North American Bird Conservation Initiative Linking Bird Conservation to Human Benefits Document task force – Bob Fisher

Fisher was invited to join the NABCI team that is creating this document for publication. The goal is to link birds and bird conservation with the benefits humans derive from helping birds, with a specific focus on economic advantages. For example, Clark's Nutcrackers spread whitebark pine seeds; the U.S. Forest Service estimated the investment needed to replace this species' seed dispersal of whitebark pine is \$1,980-\$2,405/ha, or \$11.4-\$13.9 billion, across the range of this pine species in the U.S. That works out to each pair being worth \$100,000+ in seed dispersal, based on the current estimated population of 115,000 pairs of Clark's Nutcrackers.

The target date for the release of the report is estimated to be in February 2018.

Urban Treaty grant results – Judy Pollock

Grant monies were used to plant 2,000 shrubs at LaBagh Woods; plants to benefit migratory birds were installed at three sites around the city – Douglas Tomb, Garfield Park Conservatory, Sacred Keepers; migratory bird protocols were developed and used at Montrose Points and LaBagh Woods; a migrant monitoring website; and two International Migratory Bird Day events.

The migratory protocol was successful in answering our questions. The biggest difficulty was in recruiting volunteers willing to commit a day per week in spring migration.

Migrant monitoring webpage – Eric Secker

Secker combined many migratory bird data resources at

<http://www.bcnbirds.org/migrants>

#birdthepreserves workshop – Judy Pollock

50 people have signed up for the workshop on Jan. 27 at Thatcher Woods, Pollock said.

Chicago Bird Friendly Building Ordinance update – Annette Prince

The Chicago Bird Friendly Building Working Group has been meeting and is working on fleshing out a BFBO, based to some extent on ordinances enacted by other cities. Other issues include how wide-ranging the BFBO should be (retail, commercial, all areas of the city, only areas of highest collision injuries and deaths, etc.).

Another important part of the campaign is outreach to the public, aldermen and allies in order to get the BFBO passed.

Pollock said Evanston's BFBO ordinance is fairly close to coming up for a vote by the city council.

National Audubon Climate Watch – Stephanie Beilke

Climate Watch is a citizen science project that aims to document species' response to climate change.

Volunteers will conduct point count surveys with a focus on habitats where focal species occur. Focal species are nuthatches and bluebirds (for Chicago region, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird).

The goal is to document range shifts and if shifts match predicted shifts from Audubon's climate models for 2020.

More information is available at <http://www.audubon.org/climatewatch>.

Lake County Audubon is coordinating climate watch surveys, beginning this winter.

Emma England is helping oversee this effort by a student as part of a school project in cooperation with Lake County Forest Preserves. The focus will be nuthatches in winter and bluebirds in spring.

Stephanie Beilke will be overseeing Climate Watch in Cook County starting this winter. We will pilot the survey with a focus on nuthatches (both White- and Red-breasted) and surveys will be in habitats with mature trees. These surveys may be done in urban areas, parks, and forest preserves.

Interested volunteers for Cook County surveys should contact Stephanie sbeilke@audubon.org.

Next Meeting

April 7 – location TBD

Adjourn

Motion: Bird Conservation Network approves adjournment.

Moved: Pollock

Second: Vogt

Action: Passed