



Ohio Young Birders Club

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SUMMER - FALL 2009



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**Ohio Young Birders Club
(OYBC)**

*"Encouraging, Educating, and
Empowering Tomorrow's
Conservation Leaders."*

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Delores Cole
Kenn Kaufman
Kim Kaufman
John Sawvel

Youth Advisory Panel

Ethan Kistler
Bret McCarty
Lukas Padegimas
Ben Thornton
Brad Wilkinson
Sarah Winnicki

The OYBC is sponsored by

**Black Swamp
Bird Observatory**

BSBO promotes sound
stewardship of avian resources in
the western basin of Lake Erie
through research and education.

**Black Swamp
Bird Observatory**

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Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

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Visit us at
www.ohioyoungbirders.org
www.bsbobird.org
www.bsbobird.org/birding

And be sure to visit the
Ohio Young Birders Network:
www.ohioyoungbirders.ning.com

**TONY HESS
OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB
MEMORIAL FUND**



Tony with an Ivory-billed Woodpecker specimen, on the Kirtland Bird Club field trip to the Museum of Biological Diversity, Columbus, Ohio, January 2004.

Black Swamp Bird Observatory member, Tony Hess, passed away this summer. He felt very strongly about the importance of knowledge and education. Throughout his birding years Tony mentored young people whenever he could. To honor Tony's memory, Christine Lotenero, his widow, has decided to establish the Tony Hess Ohio Young Birders Memorial Fund at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, which will be used for OYBC educational programs including support of our 3rd Annual OYBC Conference.

We feel very fortunate to be the recipient of this memorial donation, and we will do all that we can to honor Tony's memory. If you would like to honor Tony in this way, you can make a tax deductible contribution in his memory by sending a donation to the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 13551, W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449, noting that it is for the Tony Hess OYBC Memorial Donation Fund.

The Plight of the Piping Plovers by Lukas Padegimas, age 16

I walk along the quiet, deserted beach of the bay, with my family following closely behind, searching for seashells. Least Terns fly only 4 feet away and magically dive into the water and fly out carrying minnows in their beaks to feed their young. It is a late-June evening at a wonderful bird sanctuary, Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware.

While many beach-goers enjoy the ocean waves on the other side of the Point, I walk and search among large numbers of Laughing Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls for an elusive Piping Plover. Finally, it begins to rain. I approach a small "barrier" separating the small bird sanctuary called the Point and its nesting rare birds from the constant human activity. The place looks so serene. I look, but only Sanderlings and Laughing Gulls gather in small groups along the shore.



As we are about to leave, I hear an unfamiliar quick *Peep!* And there, right in front of my father's feet, sits a tiny, whitish bird with an extremely pale gray back and two short black lines on the head. My first Piping Plover! It's unmistakable, and only two feet away from me. It is paler than the wet sand on which it stands.

Then to my surprise, two more Piping Plovers— another female and a male—fly into the beach area right in front of me. Then the male ruffles his feathers outward to look like a ball of feathers and chases the two females in a circle. This sight is unforgettable. Not only do I get to see Piping Plovers, but I'm able to see them displaying in their mating games right in front of me.

Two days after this incident, I saw a Piping Plover on the beach sitting on a nest in the distance. A sign had been posted stating that the Piping Plover chicks had hatched and requesting that everyone on the beach be careful. Then I watched a tragedy unfold. After a few minutes of serene quiet, suddenly, the Least Terns started to make a lot of noise and many flew up into the air with the Laughing Gulls and began circling a dune. In the grass, a large hairy monster ran as fast as it could, most likely carrying something in its massive jaws.

I could not tell for sure what the "monster" was, a cat or a dog, but how could a protected area with at least three endangered birds nesting in it have a dog running around and feeding on these vanishing treasures? I was horrified. The same day I saw more threats. The sun was setting and a photographer wanted a better view. So, he stepped across the barrier rope and into the protected area just to take a better picture! Is that ignorance or indifference? I was outraged. He took only a few steps inside, but doesn't that set a bad example for other people, encouraging them to trespass further? I gave him the death stare until he left. The people renting canoes also came really close to the beach. I guess this isn't that stressful; at least that is what the naturalist that worked there said.

(Continued on page 9)

GOLDEN-WINGS

Many thanks to all those who put time into this newsletter.

Special thanks to:

Philip Chaon
Delores Cole
Kenn Kaufman
Kim Kaufman
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John Sawvel
Samuel Weaver
Brian Wulker

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The ***GOLDEN-WINGS*** editor is happy to receive for newsletter consideration your:

Trip Reports

Species Profiles

Articles & Book Reports

Sketches & Photos

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is November 15, 2009

Email:

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Cover Photo: Prairie Rose Farm Overnight Campout with Tim & Donna Daniels. By John Sawvel. Young Barn Swallow by Elliot Miller.



GW - What year did you start birding?

BW - Sometime around 2001. I can't remember for sure.

GW - What or who got you interested in birds?

BW - My grandparents.

GW – Have you had birding mentors or heroes who helped you?

BW - Pretty much the entire Cincinnati bird club: Jay Stenger, Mike Busam, Paul Warton, Dave and Jill Russell, my mom, and so many others.

GW - Do you have a favorite bird, and if so, what is it and what makes it your favorite?

BW - Probably one of the wrens. They are so active and curious.

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

BW - I have way too many to list, but I like Armleder Park in Cincinnati for grassland species,

passerine migrants, migrant shorebirds, raptors, and even a little waterfowl.

GW – What bird would you most like to see, and why?

BW - Again, I have way too many, but I would love to see a few of the pelagic species.

GW - What would you say is your greatest accomplishment in birding thus far?

BW - Helping start and being a part of the Queen City Birders Club, and in general having fun.

GW – Are you interested in any other natural science areas besides birds?

BW - Just about all of them, literally.

GW – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

BW - Backpacking, canoeing/kayaking, travel, baseball, football, track and field, outdoor activities in general.

GW – Are any of your friends or family members birders? If not, how do you handle that?

BW - My mom and my grandma.

GW – In your experience, what do most people your age think about birding? And if their view of birding isn't totally positive, what can we do to change that?

BW - Most think it's kind of odd,

but they are accepting of it. I've never really had too many issues with my interests and people's perceptions of them.

GW - How could we get more young people interested in nature?

BW - Start them young. Limit time on stuff like TV and computers. Publicly, I think we need more natural history taught in schools. We have some, but there is always room for more.

GW - Do you think the Internet can help foster a community of young birders, and if so, how?

BW - I think it can, because everything we have is dependant on technology. It's the easiest way to organize a group and communicate, so I think that it will be the only good way to foster a community in the near future.

GW – Have you taken any birding trips out of state?

BW - I've gone to the North Woods in Minnesota, Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico twice, North Myrtle Beach, the Outer Banks of NC many times, and I guess trips to KY and IN don't really count because they are so close.

GW - If you could go anyplace in the world to see a bird, where would you go and what

(Continued from page 4)

bird would you look for?

BW - If I'm picking from my alphabetized list, Alaska, any/all parts, just about any species.

GW – Have you attended any birding conventions or conferences, and if so, what were they?

BW - Unfortunately no, just bird club meetings.

GW - Besides the OYBC, what other organizations do you belong to?

BW - Cincinnati Bird Club, Oxbow Inc.

GW - Where do you go to school?

BW – I just graduated from Sycamore High School in Cincinnati, OH.

GW - Do you plan to go to college, and if so, where?

BW - Morehead State University in Morehead, KY.

GW - Do you have a job?

BW - Little Miami Canoe rental, kind of doing whatever they need.

GW - What is your dream job?

BW - Something that is outside, involving natural history and/or environmental science.

GW - If your dream job isn't related to birding, do you think you will still be a birder once you have your dream job?

BW - I probably always will be a birder.

GW - If so, what do you think having the hobby of birding will bring to your career?

BW - I really don't know because I'm not entirely sure on a career yet.

GW – Do you have a favorite book, and if so, what is it?

BW - I don't read as much as I should but probably Ishmael by Daniel Quinn.

GW – Do you have a favorite movie, and if so, what is it and why?

BW - I don't watch that many movies, but both Transformers movies are probably my favorites.

GW – What's your favorite place to eat?

BW - Anywhere with good seafood.

GW - What are your favorite websites?

BW - Birding in Cincinnati, OYBC networking site, Facebook, the limitless information source known as Google, eBird, mostly birding sites.

GW - Do you have any pets, and if so, what are they?

BW - One dog, Toby.

GW - Do you volunteer anywhere?

BW - Well, I'm an Eagle Scout, so mostly wherever our troop is volunteering.

GW - Have you taken or taught any birding classes/courses?

BW - Not officially.

GW - Are you involved with any birding projects?

BW – Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II.

GW – Do you keep a life list, and, if so, how many birds are on it?

BW - 294, I hope to get 300 by the end of the year.

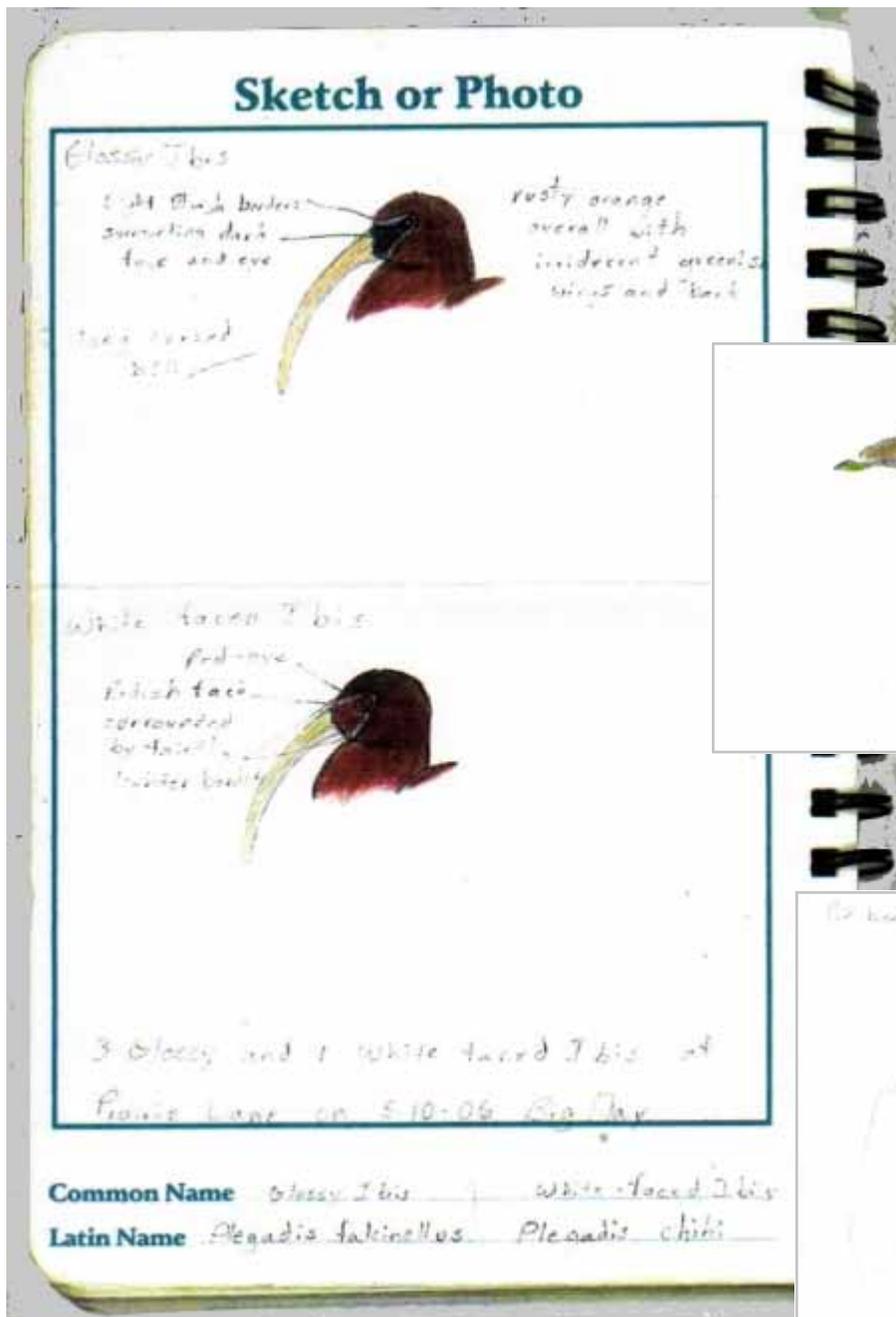
GW – Has becoming a member of the OYBC changed birding for you? If so, can you describe or explain how?

BW - Yes, before the OYBC, I only knew one person under the age of 18 who birded, and he was 3 years older than me and graduating at the time. Just in our corner of the state, I have met at least 5 people now. It's great to know other young birders.

GW - Besides the monthly field trips and annual conference that we schedule, what else can the OYBC offer to their members?

BW - I haven't really gone to any of the statewide field trips yet, so I don't know what exactly has been done already, but I would enjoy more long-term (weekend or longer) field trips, within or out of the state.

Featuring drawings from Samuel Weaver's sketchbook, at age 17



American Bittern

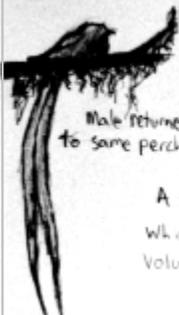


Glossy Ibis



Northern Shrike

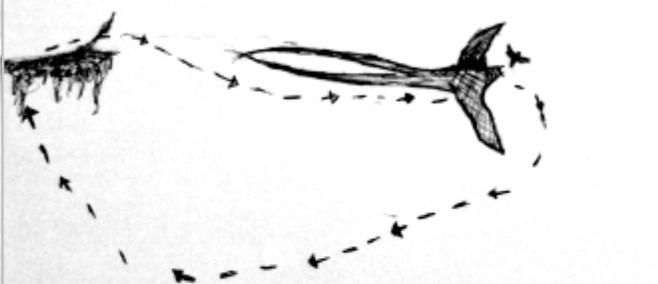
Lyre-tailed Nightjar *Tadorna* January 12, 2009 6:15 pm
 Tardoyapa, Ecuador Partly Cloudy 68°F
 Wind-none 1300 meters



Male returned repeatedly to same perch.
 A pair began calling at 6:10 pm. Song, fast whirper with like, lasting about 3 seconds and rising in volume. Wipple-woo Wipple-woo WIPPLE-woo WIPPLE-woo



6:15 pm Female left from the side of a forested cliff, followed closely by male. Male returned to open perch female did not return to cliff.



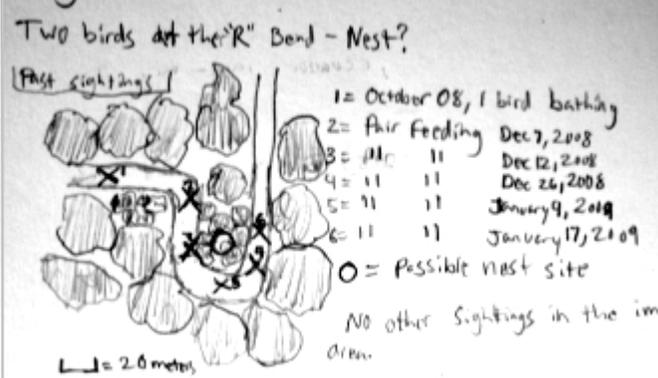
Male and female had different feeding styles. Female fed on the wing like typical Nightjar. Male tended to make short sallies from the same perch, Flycatcher like.

Two birds at the "R" Bend - Nest?

First sightings:

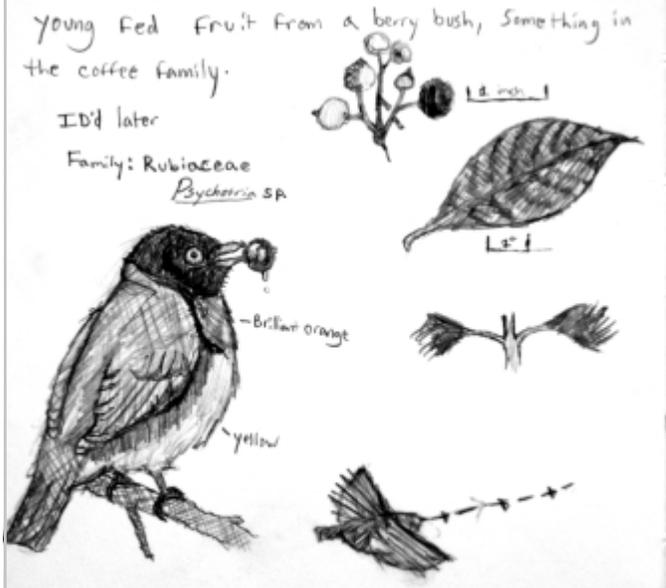
1 =	October 08,	1 bird bathing
2 =	Pair Feeding	Dec 7, 2008
3 =	11	Dec 12, 2008
4 =	11	Dec 24, 2008
5 =	11	January 9, 2009
6 =	11	January 17, 2009

○ = Possible nest site
 No other sightings in the immediate area.



Young Fed Fruit from a berry bush, something in the coffee family.

I'd later
 Family: Rubiaceae
Psychotria sp.



1.8 mm
 Leaf
 -Brilliant orange
 -yellow

Flight, heavy bodied, noisy but direct
 Wingbeats, shallow and buzzy.

Orange-breasted Fruit-eater



Well camouflaged nest at the base of a branch on a small tree. One nestling and one unhatched egg present. Male and female visited alternately every 15 minutes to feed nestling.

Feeding along recently cleared road edge on the ground.

Seen eating:

- Melastomacid sp. berries
- grit
- small earthworms



very small
 8 mm

often looking under large dead Melastomacid leaves for insects

Ethan Kistler, one of the founding members of OYBC, spent several weeks in Barrow Alaska this summer to work as a student intern for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Ethan's involvement with the OYBC played a major role in getting him this job! He worked on a project to investigate the reproductive ecology of shorebirds. This is one of several posts from his blog, www.nomadicbirder.blogspot.com, we will be featuring in Golden-Wings.



Sabine's Gull

Last Saturday a local Inupiaq invited us on a pelagic trip to look for whales and birds. After boarding his boat, we were soon 4.5 miles out into the Chuckchi Sea and surrounded by Gray Whales, Bearded Seals and seabirds.



Lewis has a lot of experience with whales being one of the local whaling captains so he was

able to get us fantastic views of Gray Whales.



Here's how close we got to view these majestic mammals. Words can't explain how incredible it was to have them surface just feet away. We could feel the rumble as every whale took a deep breath before submerging back into the water to feed on the ocean floor.

These whales skim the top layer of sediment on the ocean floor returning to the surface straining the sediment through their baleen. This allows them to swallow only the bottom-dwelling invertebrates. As we watched them surface, we were able to see a lot of the sediment they brought up from the ocean floor.

After tearing ourselves away from the whales, we cruised along some of the sea ice in search of pelagic birds.



As we passed an iceberg we came across this group of Red

Phalaropes. It took me a split second to remember that Red Phalaropes are actually pelagic birds. For the past two months I was studying their nesting habits on the tundra.



Here are the three most common Laridae off Barrow apart from Glaucous Gull. From left to right – Arctic Tern, Sabine's Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake. Arctic Terns are rather abundant in, well, the Arctic.



Here's an oddly shaped iceberg with a couple dozen roosting on top.

I really want to get out on another pelagic but with only four full days remaining in Barrow, it's unlikely. Perhaps next week, we will take a trip off Homer or Seward, Alaska.

(Continued from page 3)

The total population of Piping Plovers in Cape Henlopen State Park is 17 birds. The total number of nests was up to seven. Before seeing what was happening that day, I couldn't really imagine why their numbers were declining so much. After seeing the "monster" and the uncaring people, I realize that Piping Plovers have almost no chance of surviving. Their decline is really marked, especially in the Delmarva Peninsula. In the next 20 to 30 years, they will be extinct if no drastic efforts are taken to insure their survival. The nestlings that hatched most likely will not survive, with things stepping on them and eating them.

However, the park has taken several steps to try to curb human interference in the restricted areas. The main problem the Piping Plovers and other endangered nesters have is with the trucks of unaware fishermen running them over and with unleashed dogs.

Here is the list of fines imposed:

- * For trespassing into this zone: \$700 fine
- * For having a dog with you when you are trespassing: \$2,000 fine

- * If you are annoying or the policeman doesn't like you: up to \$1,500 extra
- * For going in a truck into a restricted area: \$3,000 fine plus \$1,500 for every foot of tire tracks in the restricted area (no reduction in fines, they were warned)

Pretty expensive? These sanctions were established to stop the main threat to the birds: fishermen running over barely visible nests. However, the question is how often the laws are enforced. I was at the Point several times during my five-day stay at the park, and did not see a ranger or an officer once!

Something needs to be done to save the Piping Plovers. The sight of three Piping Plovers scurrying right in front of me, one turning itself into a fluffed-up ball of feathers and chasing the others, was priceless. How can we let them go? Only 3,500 individuals remain of the Atlantic population. How many more have to disappear—or is it already too late?

TWO GREAT FALL EVENTS

Hueston Woods State Park Weekend Campout October 2 – 4, 2009

**College Corners, Ohio
Butler and Preble counties
(Southwest of Dayton)**

Sponsored by the Queen City Birders Chapter

Arrive Friday evening or Saturday morning.

**Take part in a host of activities, including
guided bird walks, indoor bird programs,
bird banding, owl walks, nighttime bug
lighting, and much more.**

**Cost is \$10 per young birder
(ages 12 – 18) or
\$25 per family, three or more.**

(Includes all activities, 2 nights camping,
2 breakfasts, 1 lunch & 1 dinner)

**You need not be an OYBC member or adult
supporter, but you must bring a young
nature enthusiast to attend.**

To register or for further information
call Kathy at 513 941-6497

3rd Annual OYBC Conference Saturday, November 14, 2009

**Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
Visitor Center
14000 W. State Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio
(25 miles east of Toledo)**

9 a.m. to 4.p.m.

**We have a line up of
Young Birder Presentations
a Kenn Kaufman Bird Quiz,
a Great Lunch, and
a great Field Trip!**

**Registration Fee:
Cost is \$10 per Young Birder
(ages 12 - 18)**

**\$20 per Adult Supporter.
(Includes presentations, lunch & field trip)**

**We are looking for conference sponsors &
raffle items. If you or your organization
would like to be a sponsor for our 3rd
annual conference through a contribution
of a raffle item or donation, please
contact Delores Cole at 440 823-8429.**



This young Bald Eagle was photographed at Metzger Marsh in northern Ohio in late March.

To start with, I want YOU to answer a question. As soon as you looked at this photo, you probably knew right away that this was a very big bird. But how did you know? With just a picture of a bird with nothing but sky behind it, how could you tell it wasn't just a small songbird?

After we've looked at a few birds, we can all make this kind of judgment without even thinking about it, just by what we can see of the bird's shape. There aren't any small birds that have such a small head compared to such broad, long wings. So this has to be something large.

Continuing with the idea of looking at its shape, this has to be a bird of prey, since we can see that it has a

very large hooked beak, and large feet with at least one long curved talon showing. In fact, that beak and those feet are pretty impressive. They look too hefty for any "normal" bird of prey like a Red-tailed Hawk or Northern Harrier. Looking at those features, along with the very wide and long wings with the long, separated primaries (flight feathers) at the wingtips, we might suspect right away that this is an eagle.

Bald Eagle is widespread in Ohio and is becoming more common here, but Golden Eagle also could show up anywhere in the state. This clearly is not an adult Bald Eagle (because it doesn't have a white head and tail) and it doesn't match the adult Golden Eagle either (too much pale feathering on the underside of the wings). The immature Golden Eagle does have white on the wings, but this white area is a concentrated patch at the base of the primaries and outer secondaries. On the bird in the photo, the pale feathers are scattered through the wing-linings and on the inner flight feathers.

In fact, we don't have to see that kind of feather detail to tell Bald and Golden Eagles apart. These two are not closely related to each other - - they both belong to the hawk family, and they are our largest hawks, but they're not close cousins. And they have noticeably different shapes. The Bald Eagle has a very large, long head and massive bill, and its tail is not exceptionally long. The Golden Eagle has a shorter head and slightly smaller bill, and its tail usually looks longer. The bird in the photo fits Bald Eagle better, since it has about as much sticking out in front of the wings as behind them.

Now, here's another mystery bird.

What is it, and why?



NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS

Kayleigh Householder
Eli Jay Miller
Wayne D. Miller
Alec Milnes
Deb Neidert
Tim Poiry
Jeffery D. Ritter

Eamon Ketchum-Robie
Madelyn Sanford
Jacqueline Sevrá
Jane & Dick Ward
Tyler Wilbarger
Elton A. Yoder

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Columbus Audubon
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Campbell Cottage B & B
Kaufman Field Guides
Kelleys Island Audubon Club
Kirtland Bird Club
Local Patch Birding
Ohio Ornithological Society
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Assoc.
Oxbow, Inc.
Prairie Rose Farm
Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Raptor, Inc.
Toledo Naturalist Association
Wild Birds Unlimited - Cincinnati

THE OYBC FEATURED ON TV!!

Last year's OYBC Conference in Holmes County was featured on the Ohio Division of Wildlife's television program, WILD OHIO. Check your local PBS station listings for viewing times.



WANTED!

WRITERS, ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Please send your articles and pictures & drawings to:

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your membership

**Ohio Young Birders Club
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Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Email: _____

If Young Birder, Age: _____

Yes, I want to conserve trees and expense; sign me up for electronic delivery of all OYBC's communications.

\$ _____ Donation Amount - Yes I would like to make a
donation to help support OYBC

\$ _____ Membership Dues

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed
(Please make checks payable to BSBO)

How did you hear about us? _____

Are you interested in volunteering, how? _____

- \$ 5 - Young Birder
- \$10 - Adult Supporting Member
- \$ 100 - Sponsoring Partner

Mail to: Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 13551 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449