



Ohio Young Birders Club

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

WINTER 2011

"Of all of the biding groups and functions in Ohio, I put the Ohio Young Birders Club at the top of the list. This is the COOLEST thing going on in Ohio birding!"
Greg Miller, The Big Year

5th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference



Many thanks to all of the conference attendees who helped to make this the premier birding event of the year for young birders.

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Ohio Young Birders Club
(OYBC)

*"Encouraging, Educating, and
Empowering Our Youth
Conservation Leaders."*

Coordinators
Gerry Brevoort
Tim Daniel
Ken Keffer
John Sawvel
Susan Setterlin
Darlene Sillick

Youth Advisory Panel

Clare Jusdanis
Wyatt Miller
Dakota Outcalt
Lukas Padegimas
Kristina Polk
Jacob Stinnett
Doug Whitman
Sarah Winnicki

The OYBC was founded by

Black Swamp
Bird Observatory
Teaming Research With Education
To Promote Bird Conservation

We are located at the entrance to
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

5th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference November 5, 2011

A special thanks to *all* of the
sponsors and volunteers.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

**Nadya Bennett, Delores Cole,
Christine Lotenero, Susan Setterlin,
John Sawvel, Doug Whitman**

CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

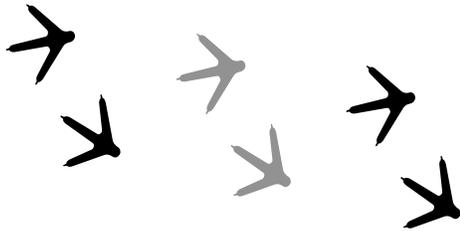
Gerry Brevoort ♦ Josh Cherubini ♦ Delores Cole
Tim Daniel ♦ Cheryl Harner ♦ Robert Hershberger
Kenn Kaufman ♦ Kathy McDonald ♦ Darleen Sillick
Susan Setterlin ♦ Mark & Julie Shieldcastle

OYBC Scholarships Available

John F. Gallagher Memorial Scholarship Fund

Ohio Young Birders Club scholarships are available to help young people who are interested in birds to attend summer camps, workshops, classes, training programs, conventions, and other bird-related activities. Funds for these scholarships come from our partners, private donations, and proceeds from special fundraising events. Applicants must be current OYBC members between the ages of 12 and 18 to be eligible.

visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org/scholarships.htm for an application form, or call BSBO at 419-898-4070 and we will mail you one.



Editor's Notes

In my haste to put together the Fall 2011 GOLDEN-WINGS, I regretfully made multiple mistakes on page 13. For this I apologize.

Kristina Polk wrote a wonderful blog post about International Migratory Bird Day. She was gracious enough to allow the Ohio Young Birders Club to reprint it in GOLDEN-WINGS.

Unfortunately I got Kristina's age wrong twice. I also invented a new Ohio town for Kristina to call home. Kristina Polk is in fact a 16 year old young birder from North Ridgeville, Ohio.

Here is a more accurate biography for one of the OYBC's most engaged members.

Kristina Polk is an Ohio high schooler who loves wildlife photography. She is a vegan, and she loves animals, especially orcas, deer, and birds. A fan of horse racing, Kristina is also part of the Teen Corps program at her local Metroparks. She is a proud member of the Ohio Young Birders Club, and her goal is to be a wildlife biologist studying wild birds! She loves to read, write, draw, and take photos. Other hobbies include birdwatching, photography, creating artwork, and blogging!

You can follow Kristina Polk's blog at <http://imwildatheart.blogspot.com/>

She also has an article, poetry, and artwork on pages 11-13 of this GOLDEN-WINGS.

Kristina, thank you for all of your contributions to the Ohio Young Birders Club.

Sincerely,
Ken Keffer
Black Swamp Bird Observatory Education Director
GOLDEN-WINGS Editor

GOLDEN-WINGS

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the newsletter. Special thanks to:

Samantha Aubuchon
Gerry Brevoort
Tim Daniel
Kim Kaufman
Jennifer Outcalt
Kayla Parry
Kristina Polk
Robert Reynard
Paul Riss
John Sawvel
MacKenzie Smitley
Chad Williams

GOLDEN-WINGS Editors:
Ken Keffer
Kathy McDonald

The *GOLDEN-WINGS* editors are happy to receive for newsletter consideration your:

- Trip Reports
- Species Profiles
- Articles & Book Reports
- Sketches & Photos

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is February 1, 2012

Email: in-fo@ohioyoungbirders.org

Mail:
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Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

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Cover Photo: Tim Daniel

YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE..MACKENZIE SMITLEY, AGE 14



*MacKenzie Smitley, right
with mentor Kelly Williams-Sieg*

GOLDEN-WINGS—What got you interested in birds, and in what year did you start birding?

MACKENZIE SMITLEY—I guess I've always enjoyed watching birds outside my window, but what really got me started was when I joined swim team in 2005. My swim coach, Kelly Williams-Sieg, was involved in the Northern Saw-whet Owl project at Buzzard's Roost. She was banding saw-whets to prove that Ohio was in their migratory patterns and winter range. She invited my mother and me to go up and see them. As soon as I saw the owls I wanted to know more about them. Almost every Saturday I went there and got to hold the owls. Soon I was banding other birds and I really enjoyed it.

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

MS—I have had birding mentors, Kelly Williams-Sieg, Bill Bostic and Bob Placier. They taught me a lot and were very patient with me.

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

MS—I wouldn't say I have a favorite bird but I find warblers are the most intriguing group. Their songs and plumage are so unique. One of my favorites in the group would have to be the Magnolia Warbler because they are so beautiful and distinctive with the white band on their tails.

GW—Where is your favorite place to bird?

MS—My favorite place to go bird banding would probably be at Ross Lake because there are so many different birds.

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

MS—I've always wanted to see and hold the Cerulean Warbler. We have had one on our property the last couple of years. We can hear it sing but have not seen it. They are declining because of habitat destruction, so it is really cool they are in my tree tops. I really hope to see one.

GW—So far what would you say is your greatest accomplishment in birding?

MS—I guess that as a thirteen year old I had a chance to go out and help Kelly Williams-Sieg in obtaining her doctorate research by setting up banding nets and learning to collect data.

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

MS—I suppose I have many different interests in science. I like to learn about plants and wild animals and their behaviors.

GW—Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

MS—Yeah I do have a few other hobbies and interests. I like to write and draw, and I'm on swim team, marching band, and I play softball.

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

MS—No, none of my family does much with birds I'm kind of the only one. I don't really mind, it's my own thing. My parents are willing to support me and get me to outings.

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?

MS—In my opinion I see visual birding and banding very differently. In birding I feel you're looking for birds and maybe watching for behaviors. In bird banding you get real close to birds, hold them and collect data such as weight, age, sex and fat content for research. When I tell people about it they think it's pretty cool.

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

MS—The only thing I can really think of to get young people interested is to do more hands on things where kids get to hold and touch wildlife instead of doing it all through binoculars.

GW—Do you think the internet can help foster a community of young birders? How?

MS—Yeah, probably, I know the webcams that show the baby owls or eagles have always been a cool thing to observe. Websites on the kind of activities that birders get to do and things they get to see, maybe even the animals they get to hold and get close up with tends to make people intrigued.

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

MS—I've never taken a direct trip for birding, but when I am out of state I've gone to wildlife preserves and observed some birds there.

GW—If you could go anyplace in the world to see a bird, where would you go and what bird would you look for?

MS—I think it would be cool to go to Brazil someday, but I don't think I would look for a single bird because there are so many unique and beautiful birds there. I would feel like I was missing out on all the other wildlife if I searched for just one in particular.

GW—Have you attended any birding conventions or conferences? Which ones?

MS—I have attended a couple conferences sponsored by the Columbus Audubon Society which highlighted Ian Ausprey and Kelly Williams-Sieg. I have been to the Black Swamp Bird Observatory for a conference. I listened to a presentation by Julie Zickefoose at Mound City here in Ross County. I also attended Adams County Amish Bird Symposium where I won a bird skin identification contest. The contest was a challenge, but I had a lot of fun. Bob Placier was so excited that a kid from Ross County won.

*Interested in being interviewed by GOLDEN-WINGS?
Contact the Ohio Young Birders Club at
info@ohioyoungbirders.org*

YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE..MACKENZIE SMITLEY, AGE 14

GW—Where do you go to school?

MS—I am a freshman at Chillicothe City Schools.

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

MS—I plan to go to college right after high school, but I don't really know what college I want to attend yet.

GW—Do you have a job somewhere?

MS—I don't have a job because I'm only fourteen but I guess you could say chores are a kind of job.

GW—What is your dream job?

MS—I guess my dream job would be writing for *Scientific America* or something along those lines.

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?

MS—I don't know if I would necessarily be a birder. I will still enjoy birds and watching them, but I probably wouldn't go out into the woods as much as I had when I was younger.

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

MS—If I do decide to do birding I don't know if it would really do much for my career. It might bring more patience and knowledge about birds and make it easier to write about bird behaviors.

GW—What is your favorite book? What makes it your favorite?

MS—I have to think about this one. There are a lot of different books I've read. I guess *The Guardian* by Nicholas Sparks. Nicholas Sparks is a really good author and he has a lot of good books out there. I love the plot, it is really suspenseful and entertaining, and I like how he put the dog in it. The ending is a little sad, but it's good.

GW—What is your favorite movie, and why is it your favorite?

MS—The Pirates of the Caribbean movies are my favorites, and I like them all. I love Johnny Depp in those movies. He's so funny. The humor is great, but it also has action and romance. They're all around good movies, and I love the time period that they are set in. It makes it all the more interesting for me.

GW—What's your favorite place to eat?

MS—My favorite place to eat is probably just at home or the Old Canal Smokehouse here in Chillicothe. My parents are really good cooks, and the Smokehouse is a nice place to eat. I love the food there.

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

MS—Yeah, we have five dogs. It's a lot, we know, but we love them. Except when they bark nonstop. We have two Jack Russell Terriers, an Australian Cattle Dog, an Australian Shepard, and a Giant Schnauzer.

GW—Do you volunteer anywhere?

MS—I occasionally help out Kelly, my mentor, if she needs help collecting data, but other than that not really. Between school, homework, practices, and games or meets, there isn't much time to do anything else.

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

MS—No, I've just learned everything about bird banding from Kelly, Bob, or Bill, and I've never taught anything on it except if someone asked what it was. I have done some presentations at 4-H and at school on my bird banding experiences.

GW—Do you keep a life list? If so, how many birds are on it?

MS—I do have a list of birds and there are approximately a hundred of birds on it.

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

MS—I do not see myself as a visual birder because I have had so many opportunities to hold and help with data on birds. I have had a hard time relating to visual birding however, watching people do this I've gained a lot of respect for the people who bird. It takes a lot of commitment to watch and follow birds or try and find certain ones.

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

MS—I don't really know if the OYBC club does this, since I am new, but I haven't seen much about bird banding experiences. I think that would be a great opportunity for members because they could get up close with all kinds of birds. They'd even get a chance to hold them and learn about them.



Northern Saw-whet Owl

Your Organization Can Become an OYBC Sponsor Today!

Do *your* part to encourage our youth to learn more about birds and the natural world around them.

Support the Ohio Young Birders Club at one of the following levels:

- _____ \$1,000 – BALD EAGLE LEVEL
- _____ \$750 – PEREGRINE FALCON LEVEL
- _____ \$500 – RED-TAILED HAWK LEVEL
- _____ \$100 – AMERICAN KESTREL LEVEL

visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org for a sponsorship form
or contact BSBO at 419-898-4070

5TH ANNUAL OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

Memorable photos & quotes.



Over 100 people attended the Ohio Young Birders Conference held on November 5, 2011, at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus, Ohio. We enjoyed a morning bird walk, a bird banding demonstration, a live raptor display, the bird ID quiz, a fine lunch, fabulous door prizes, a presentation on birding opportunities for young people, and amazing presentations by the students. It was a grand day. A memorable day.

"Special Thanks also goes to everyone at BSBO -- You have all done so much to support and encourage our youth. The conference was absolutely inspiring!!!"



Susan K. Williams of Raptor Inc. sharing a live bird display with participants.



KAUFMAN FIELD GUIDES BIRD ID QUIZ WINNERS
(left to right) Kenn Kaufman & Aaron Tayal co-presenters
Aspen Ellis, Kristina Polk, & Kayla Parry co-winners

"All three of my kids are inspired and making plans for how to be better, more focused birders. But, in addition, they had FUN too!"

"As a 23 year old graduate student, I appreciate the energy and enthusiasm of young minds as well as the experience and wisdom of older ones. I was greatly impressed with the young conference attendees who were surprisingly knowledgeable of the world around them, some of whom dare I say far more knowledgeable about many topics and better at presenting than many college students... Most of all, I was impressed by the overall summative message I received from the speakers."

5TH ANNUAL OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

(left to right)

Rob Reynard

Kathleen Seeley

Rachael Butek, Keynote Speaker

Lukas Padejimas

Doug Whitman, Master of Ceremony

Jessie Barry, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
not pictured

"What an awesome conference today! :)"



Thanks to many generous sponsors everyone went home with fabulous door prizes and registration packet goodies.



A partially leucistic Hermit Thrush was banded.

"Wow, what an amazing conference you guys put on! I had the time of my life there, and seriously hope I can make it again in the future! Thanks so much OYBC!!! :D"



Birdwalk at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center



BSBO Education Director Ken Keffer introduces Aaron Tayal, co-presenter of the Kaufman Bird ID Quiz

"IT WAS SHOCKING AND WONDERFUL TO SEE SO MANY YOUNG BIRDERS MY AGE"

I live in Rockford, Illinois and am a member of the Illinois Young Birders Club and the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society. Since my aunt and cousin have moved to Ohio, I have had the opportunity to join in on some of the Ohio Young Birders Club events. I was lucky enough this year to attend the 5th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

On Friday, November 4th, my grandparents got up at the crack of dawn to drive me 400 miles to Findlay, Ohio. After eight hours of driving we met up with my cousin Dakota and Aunt Jennie. Immediately when we got there we drove 90 more miles to Columbus, Ohio.

We got up early Saturday morning. Unfortunately the hotel somehow ran out of coffee!!! This was not good for some of the adults. After a rocky start, we headed to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center for the OYBC Conference.

One of the first events was a bird banding demonstration. This was particularly interesting because they caught a **Hermit Thrush with abnormal coloring. Some of its feathers completely lacked pigmentation. I don't believe I have ever seen this before, and it was very cool to see it up close.**

The most unique thing about the OYBC Conference is that young birders are the speakers. We heard from young **birders about the Ohio Young Birders Club Central Ohio Chapter's service projects, a summer job in the Arctic, and about the successful restoration of the Lake Erie Water Snake.** We heard about career opportunities for young birders and about the history and processes of bird banding.

The keynote speaker Rachael Butek was the American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year. She did a **great job of discussing her experience with the contest and how with "no car" and "no scope" it was "no problem"** to find and study great birds.

Susan K. Williams from Raptor Inc. brought in an American Kestrel, a Barn Owl and a Great Horned Owl. It is always amazing to see these birds up close. We had fun **with Kenn Kaufman's Bird ID quiz and raffle drawings. My grandpa won a book and a shirt and as luck would have it, the shirt fit me perfectly.** Thanks Grandpa! I think it is awesome that Kim and Kenn Kaufman and other great birders in the Ohio area spent their time attending the conference. They care about young birders and the future of birding.

The conference was really fun and it gave me the opportunity to visit my cousin and aunt. **I don't think I have ever seen so many birders in one place all at once.** It was shocking and wonderful to see so many young birders my age. I hope to return every year to the Ohio Young Birders Conference.



CHECK OUT THESE BLOG REPORTS HIGHLIGHTING THE 5TH ANNUAL OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

Jennie Outcalt, Birdfreak:

<http://birdfreak.com/category/young-birders/>

Chad Williams, Indian Young Birders Club Advisor:

<http://indianabirder.blogspot.com/2011/11/oybc-annual-conference-columbus-oh.html>



Paul Riss, Punk Rock Big Year:
<http://networkedblogs.com/pN4rC>





Ring-necked Duck and Ruddy Duck
by Kayla Parry, age 13



Osprey and Ruddy Duck
by Robert Reynard, age 16

Help recruit new OYBC members by inviting
friends along on the next field trip!

BIG SIT FOR CONSERVATION BY KRISTINA POLK, AGE 16

Everyone has passion, obsession, and admiration. Some of us feel this towards practical things, such as cooking or crafting. Some of us feel this towards birds. I like to think birds are the better option, opening eyes and hearts and minds to so much more than what's expected.

When one has a passion for birds, there's something about said passion that goes beyond normality. Birds awaken something within us, inspiring us to do things for birds we'd never do for anything else. For example, would I stand

for seven hours fully exposed to the frigid lakefront gales for anything but birds? Highly unlikely.

This morning I did exactly that-- stand for seven hours on the shore of Lake Erie, with the Ohio Young Birders Club for our Big Sit. It should have been called a Big Stand In The Cold, really. Oh, the things we do for birds. But we had a blast, and we saw birds, and we raised money for conservation. Time well spent, in my opinion, with 31 species tallied, including Ruddy Duck, Black-bellied Plover, Caspian Tern, Bald Eagle, American Coot, Bonaparte's Gull, Great Black-Backed Gull, Greater Yellowlegs and more!

It was quite an experience and definitely great bonding time for all. I enjoyed talking with Ken Keffer as always, and Kayla, Nathan, and the other teen birders! Kenn Kaufman paid us a visit, sharing his knowledge in his friendly, easy-going way. (I am better able to distinguish immature Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls! Thanks, Kenn!) And then we have Mrs. Kim Kaufman, who is ~awesome~. She let me wear her BSBO jacket because I was freezing even with 6 layers on.

We had tons of great bird sightings. We witnessed a pair of Bald Eagles bring in a duck as prey, and munch on it before bathing. Bonaparte's Gulls flew all about, flashing their white wing edges. American Crows flapped around the beach. Turkey Vultures flew low over the masses of mallards and geese. A young Greater Yellowlegs let us get some great looks at it, along with some Great Blue Herons. Ruddy Ducks proved a challenge to identify as they bobbed far out on the lake, but perhaps the hardest identification was the single American Coot in between the Ruddies. The wind made it impossible to keep the scopes steady, and those waves were crazy!

The Great Black-backed Gull was a nice sighting, and we also saw two banded Canada Geese.

I was amazed at the resilience of the birds; they were standing in frigid water with bare feet and a coat of feathers for protection against the wind while us humans were bundled in multiple layers and still shivering... there were even a few butterflies flitting around in that crazy breeze!! Nature is AWESOME. To think of the migration all these animals must make...it's just insane.



The day closed with my viewing of The Big Year, which is an outstanding film. It's actually quite inspiring, and had me laughing and smiling the entire time. I highly recommend it.

Truly, birds are amazing; so amazing that sometimes I have a hard time believing such wonderful and astounding creatures exist. I know I profess my love of birds regularly, but they deserve it. Every day my passion for them is renewed as soon as I see the first goldfinch out my window, or hear

the first Killdeer calling as it flies over my house. I look at a bird and ponder its existence: how can something so small and light fly so far each spring and autumn? How do such delicate objects as feathers withstand beating winds and rain and snow to carry birds through the sky?

Do you ever look at a bird and have only its shadow to confirm its reality?

I call this the 'white bird's shadow' effect: think of an egret. They are so light on their feet, always ready to take off. Their presence is buoyant and ethereal, and their pure white feathers glow in the sunlight. They are magical...angelic...almost too good to be true. Sometimes only their shadows remind me that they are, in fact, real...



Peace always,
Kristina Polk~

BIG SIT BY THE NUMBERS

\$6,000 dollars raised for conservation

\$500 was the highest individual donation

150+ individual donors contributed

31 bird species were seen

27 people visited the count circle

18 states were represented with donors

\$3.00/species was the highest individual pledge

OYBC TAKES A STAND AGAIN HABITAT LOSS

Student members of the Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) took a "stand" against habitat loss with a BIG SIT fundraiser this fall! The OYBC BIG SIT raised over \$6,000 with proceeds to benefit both the OYBC and the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve restoration project.

The idea behind a BIG SIT is to stay in a 17-foot diameter circle and count all the species of birds you can identify from that spot during a continuous period. This BIG SIT goes beyond simply counting birds. The OYBC collected donations and pledges for each species seen, making this a birdathon similar to a walkathon.

Kim Kaufman, Executive Director of Black Swamp Bird Observatory explains, "The OYBC recognizes that it takes more than the ability to identify birds to be good stewards of our natural resources. We strive to give young people the tools to empower their ability to be strong conservation leaders. Financial support is critical for conservation efforts, and teaching the students about fundraising and charitable giving is an important part of their leadership development."

Students from the OYBC tallied 31 bird species during the Big Sit count. Strong southwest winds on count day exposed mud flats along the Lake Erie coast. This provided ideal viewing for the flocks of Canada Geese, Mallards, and numerous species of gulls, terns, and wading birds. Young birders made up the core of the Big Sit Count Circle, some waking as early as 3:00 a.m. to be in the circle by start time. Throughout the day they were joined by staff and board members of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Port Clinton City Council President Linda Hartlaub, and many local residents.

Hartlaub says, "The City has worked off-and-on for more than twenty years to obtain the property now known as the Lakeshore Preserve. Now that we have succeeded, we can boast that we have one of the longest continuous stretches of public access shoreline on Lake Erie."

The Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve is an example of the fact that the City of Port Clinton understands the value in preserving natural areas and protecting the unobstructed views of Lake Erie that have become so precious. **In addition to the scenic value, it's important to note that less than 16% of Ohio's Lakeshore is accessible to the public, so the mile-long stretch preserved by the Lakefront Preserve adds considerably to the public's opportunity to enjoy Lake Erie at its finest.**

The money raised during the Big Sit for Conservation will have an immediate impact for both recipients. The City of Port Clinton is moving forward with restoration efforts at the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve with these generous contributions, and the OYBC will be able to increase the number of opportunities we offer for young people to get out and enjoy nature.

GREEN MACHINE CLUB FEEDS THE BIRDS...KAYLA PARRY, AGE 13



At Patrick Henry Middle School we have a club called Green Machine.

Green Machine is a student led organization. The Green Machine mission is to increase awareness of environmental concerns and encourage others to recycle. The group accomplishes their mission in several different ways. They are in charge of collecting used paper from the middle school and taking it to a recycling center. They have litter collection campaigns, and fundraisers to earn money for landscaping the school. All the activities are created, and organized by 30 eighth grade students.

Mrs. Ballow, Green Machine Advisor states, "the Green Machine is currently a local organization that involves one building. The goal of the group is to expand and include all the buildings in the Patrick Henry School District. Adding used paper collection bins in the other buildings will be one tangible way to increase cognizance of our environment in the district. Creating awareness for environmental causes, and helping to make it as easy as possible to help our environment, is what this group strives for every meeting. "



Green Machine Team

This year I brought up the idea to put up birdfeeders around the school. Our club advisor, and science teacher, Mrs. Ballow agreed to the idea. We decided to use pine cones with a shortening and peanut butter mixture with mixed birdseed. The Green Machine was pretty optimistic about the plan, and the plan was a huge success. Now, most all of the seed is eaten from about a half of the pine cones. We're now hoping to add a hopper or tube feeder for outside our class window.

I'm really excited to have this opportunity to share the birds, and hopefully everyone else is excited to see them.



Kayla Parry



Wings Upon the Evergreens
Kristina Polk



The winds are getting colder and the snow is beginning to fall.
Winter is fast approaching.

Wings upon the evergreens, sheltered from the wind
Sparrows, robins, nuthatches to the tree are pinned.
Gales whip their feathers round, bitter cold and strong
Winter comes and winter goes; it always stays too long.

Between the icicles cardinals flock, red and warm like fire
Though the coldness never dims, the birds will never tire.
Chickadees and woodpeckers chatter in the snow
Perhaps they speak of seasons past or the way to go.

The birds, they fluff their plumage out while the wind blows it astray
They dream of spring and sunny flights a thousand weeks away.



Remember to
submit materials for
upcoming issues of
GOLDEN-WINGS!

Caspian Tern
Kristina Polk, age 16



Purple Martin
Kristina Polk, age 16

Great Blue Heron
Kristina Polk, age 16



OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

*Additional field trip information at www.ohioyoungbirders.org.
To register for any of these events, or for more information, please
contact Black Swamp Bird Observatory at 419-898-4070.*

Christmas Bird Counts
December 14—January 5
Many locations throughout Ohio and the US!

Participating in this national count has become a tradition for OYBC students. *OYBC members are invited to participate in the Fremont CBC on December 31, but there are other counts all around the state!*

Ohio State University's
Museum of Biological Diversity
January 21, 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Tour the museum collections including skins, eggs, and nests, while learning about bird anatomy, taxonomy, and museum study skin prep work. RSVP with OYBC Central Advisor Gerry Brevoort (jbrevoor@columbus.rr.com) by January 16th.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History
January 28, 2012, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Museum admission required.
Bring a lunch or money for food.

Join us at the CMNH for an in depth tour with Director of Science and Curator of Ornithology Andy Jones including a behind the scenes look at some of the museum collections.

OYBC Member Lukas Padegimas is also a leader on this trip. Lukas has worked with the CMNH in the past, and he will provide a unique perspective for this field trip. Time is also available to explore the museum including the Polar Obsession exhibit.

Do YOU have an great idea for an OYBC field trip? **If so, we'd love to hear** about it! Contact Ken Keffer - kenkeffer@bsbo.org
John Sawvel - johnsawvel@bsbo.org
or call BSBO at (419) 898-4070 to share your ideas for field trips, content for the newsletter, or any other thoughts, concerns, or great ideas you have for the OYBC.

Thanks!

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area
Winter Blues Blowout with the
Black Swamp Bird Observatory
February 11, 2012, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

The field trip will begin at the Sportsman's Center on the corner of Twp. Hwy 108 and former County Highway 75. **Owls and wintering hawks are what Wyandot County's** Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area is known for. During the morning hours we will carpool to regular spots to see owls, hawks, and waterfowl. Recent sightings may divert us during the trip.

Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch. Electricity is available for crock pots. Hot and cold drinks and tableware will be provided.

After lunch some choose to continue birding on their own. Many stay to see the Short-eared Owls at dusk.

Dress for the weather and be prepared to have some fun! Please call 419 898-4070 to let us know that you're coming and how many people you'll be bringing.



Adams County
Bird Festival
March 3, 2012

Join the OYBC for an exciting birding festival in southern Ohio. Black Swamp Bird Observatory Executive Director Kim Kaufman will both be a speaker at the festival this year.

Carpooling from northwest Ohio is usually an option. Contact BSBO if interested and for details on what time the BSBO Bird Bus leaves for each field trip.

WELCOME TO ALL OF THE
NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS

STUDENT MEMBERS ADULT MEMBERS

Rachael Butek
Caden Spencer Haines
Levi McVey
Michael Pullella
Emily Wallingford

Kaarina Ornelas
Mary Anne Perks
Marry Ann Riggs
Robert Riggs
Mark Skolnicki
Lynn Spencer

Encourage your friends and family
to become OYBC members!

Is your membership current?
Many Ohio Young Birders Club
Memberships are up for
renewal for 2012.

FOLLOW THE OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB ON
FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



www.facebook.com/ohioyoungbirders



www.twitter.com/oybc

- Connect with young birders from around the world
- Learn about exciting opportunities like summer camps and volunteer programs specific to young birders
- Share your photos, artwork, poems, stories, and more!

Thank you to all of our OYBC SPONSORS!

Black Swamp Conservancy

Canton Audubon Society

OYBC Central OH Chapter
(Columbus Audubon)

Friends of Magee Marsh

Greater Mohican Audubon

Kaufman Field Guides

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Ohio Wildlife

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Audubon Society

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Cincinnati

Wilderness Center Bird Club

For more information on sponsoring
the OYBC, see Page 5 of this issue of
GOLDEN-WINGS, or call BSBO at
(419) 898-4070.



Black Swamp Bird Observatory

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419 898-4070

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

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

\$ _____ Membership Dues (calendar year)

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

___ \$ 10 - Student
___ \$ 20 - Adult Supporting Member
___ \$ 100 to \$1000 Sponsorship Levels

How did you hear about us? _____

Are you interested in volunteering? How? _____

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