



# Ohio Young Birders Club

VOLUME 7 | ISSUE 2      FALL 2012

"Of all of the birding 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

Registration Form  
Included In This  
Issue!

Ohio Young Birders Conference  
November 3, 2012  
Aullwood Audubon Farm & Center  
Dayton, Ohio



The Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) explores Magee Marsh Wildlife Area during International Migratory Bird Day. See page 9 for more details and photos of the event.

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Ohio Young Birders Club  
(OYBC)

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

Coordinators

Gerry Brevoort, OYBC Central  
Tim Daniel, OYBC Central  
Kate Zimmerman, BSBO  
John Sawvel, BSBO  
Susan Setterlin, OYBC Central  
Darlene Sillick, OYBC Central  
Brian Herriott, OYBC Southwest  
Bill Creasey, OYBC Southwest  
Michael Zook, OYBC Central  
Liz Rising, OYBC Southwest  
Kathy McDonald, OYBC Southwest

Youth Advisory Panel

Clare Jusdanis  
Dakota Outcalt  
Kayla Parry  
Kristina Polk  
Jacob Stinnett  
Doug Whitman

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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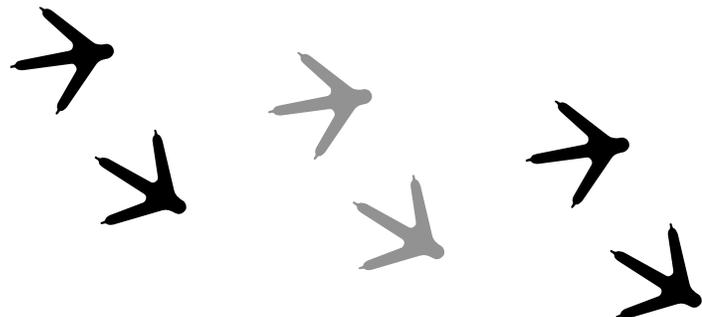
## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Black Swamp Bird Observatory partners with  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
to present the  
**Young Birders Network**

We are very excited to announce that Black Swamp Bird Observatory and Cornell Lab of Ornithology have joined forces in creating a national network for young birders! The Young Birders Network (YBN) aims to provide resources and networking opportunities to students, as well as adults involved in supporting student birding activities. Though the network is primarily geared for ages 12-18, younger birders and college students alike may also find relevant resources.

The website offers a comprehensive listing of clubs, opportunities, and other information relevant to young birders. You can find information about local clubs, summer jobs and events, college and career ideas, online discussion groups, and so much more.

Check out [youngbirdersnetwork.net](http://youngbirdersnetwork.net)



## 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](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/scholarships.htm) for an application form,  
or call BSBO at 419-898-4070 and we will mail you one.

## BSBO'S NEW EDUCATION & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

My name is Kate Zimmerman and I am the new Education & Outreach Coordinator for Black Swamp Bird Observatory. I have already had the pleasure of meeting several of the OYBC student members, but for those students I have not yet met, here is a little bit about me.

I love to go hiking, kayaking, snowboarding, and of course BIRD WATCHING! I enjoy going **to baseball games and like to play sports as well. I'm from south-east Pennsylvania**, the home of baked goods (the most famous of which is the whoopie pie!). I grew up in a family who loves birds, butterflies, frogs, snakes, well pretty much everything mother nature has to offer. My father was an avid birder, and so from a young age I was carted all over the United States from one National Park to the next on endless camping trips. One of my favorite places to this day is still Acadia National Park, the first national park I ever visited.

My first experience with Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) was in the fall of 2009. My fiancé and I started volunteering at the passerine banding station with Mark and Julie Shieldcastle. We were both instantly hooked!

At the time, we were both living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and going to school. I was **completing a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology at the University of Michigan. I studied Red Knot roosting stop-over ecology in Delaware Bay during their northbound migration for my graduate thesis.** In 2008 and 2009, I spent eight weeks during late spring/early summer in Delaware Bay studying shorebirds. It was an amazing experience and I think shorebirds, specifically Red Knots, will always be one of my favorite birds.

After graduation, I was hired by (BSBO) to work on a research grant for five months. I spent long hours pouring through endless numbers and codes on the computer. During that time, I helped Ken Keffer with several education programs that BSBO hosts for students K-12. I gained a great deal of teaching experience during my time in graduate school as an instructor for biology labs and field biology classes for both high school and college students. I loved teaching as much as research and wanted to incorporate both interests into my future career somehow. Fast forward to now and I have the best of **both worlds and what seems like my dream job as BSBO's Education & Outreach Coordinator.**



Kate Zimmerman helping Delaney Hayes release a Thrush.

## 2012 LAKE ERIE PELAGIC SCHEDULE

BSBO Member, \$40 ; Non-Member, \$50 ; Student, 18 and under, \$25

The *HOLIDAY* departs from the Flats in Cleveland, OH

Leaders include:

Gabe Leidy, Rob Ripma, & Jerry Talkington

- ◇ We will search for Winter gulls, jaegers, loons, grebes, & ducks
- ◇ Lunch provided onboard!
- ◇ Dress for the weather!



~~Saturday, November 17~~  
Saturday, November 24  
Saturday, December 8

Departure is from the Cleveland Flats (the old Jim's Steakhouse location) at 1800 Scranton Road on a the 60-foot steel-hulled charter boat the *Holiday*. She will be sailing from the upper flats of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland onto Lake Erie. This offshore birding pelagic will be a special charter sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory and Inside the Great Outdoors Radio.

For a registration form, trip details and driving directions, visit [www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org)



To use PayPal visit [www.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.org)

To register, contact BSBO by phone.

phone: 419-898-4070

## GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Benjamin Van Doren  
Nathan Martineau  
May Martineau  
Chloe Degitz  
Kristina Polk  
Joey Tomei  
Jacob Stinnett  
Kayla Parry  
Jack Roy  
Trevor Zook  
Mike Zook  
Kenn Kaufman  
Jennifer Callaway

*GOLDEN-WINGS* Editors:  
Kate Zimmerman  
John Sawvel

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 December 15, 2012*

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Cover Photo: OYBC Students at Magee Marsh on International Migratory Bird Day.

# YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE... BENJAMIN VAN DOREN, AGE 18

**GOLDENWINGS:** Who or what got you interested in birds, and in what year did you start birding?

**BVD:** Way back in third grade—2002, I think—my teacher got the class involved in a Cornell Lab program called Classroom Feederwatch. She taught us how to identify the common feeder birds, and we submitted our count data online. It felt empowering to collect data that would be put to use by real scientists. It only took a few months before I had my own bird feeders.

**GW:** Have you had birding mentors or heroes who helped you?

**BVD:** **Certainly; I've always been amazed by the level of support** in the birding community, especially towards young birders.

Joan Conca was the teacher I had in third grade who introduced me to watching birds. A local Audubon Society naturalist, Ted Gilman, was a great influence on me when I was first starting out birding beyond the backyard. Carena Pooth, an adult advisor with the New York State Young Birders Club, has been very helpful too. And last, but definitely not least, Andrew Farnsworth from Cornell has been an awesome mentor throughout my research-related endeavors.

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

**BVD:** **I don't really have a clear favorite** bird. I enjoy birds collectively—I **appreciate each species' unique part** to play in their particular environment. That **being said, I've always found** Blackburnian Warblers particularly cool.

**GW:** Where is your favorite place to bird?

**BVD:** **Also a tough question...in the past** couple years I birded my home county of Westchester, NY relatively intensively, as I knew it would be at least a while before I would be back living there for an entire year. I really liked getting to know the county better, especially locating the **more difficult breeders; it's definitely** proven more satisfying to work to find a particular species in the county, rather than travel far to see it at a more traditional spot. Nonetheless, one region I love that is outside of my county are the highlands that extend from the southern Hudson River in NY to the Delaware River in NJ, which contain neat habitats and cool breeding birds.

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

**BVD:** I would absolutely love to go to Siberia and see a breeding Spoon-billed Sandpiper. It goes without saying that this species is incredibly awesome, and yet in so much trouble.

**In my home state, Henslow's Sparrow and Spruce**

Grouse are particular nemeses. Very sparse, local, and unfortunately declining breeders.

**A bird I'd love to see again is White-faced Storm-Petrel.**

I was on a trip off Massachusetts where we saw twenty-two(!), but I have not been back out there for a few years. This species has an incredibly cool method of locomotion—it holds its wings out flat while using its legs to kangaroo-jump across the ocean. **Like nothing I've ever seen.**

**GW:** What are some of your birding accomplishments thus far?

**BVD:** The fact that there are so many different facets of birding

**is one of the things I think makes it so appealing. I've been able** to enjoy both the fun, competitive side—participating in the World Series of Birding for a few years and actually winning the Youth category once—and the more academic side—having some writing published in ABA publications and being nationally recognized for research.

**GW:** Are you interested in any other natural science areas besides birds. What are your other interests and hobbies?

**BVD:** **I'm not just** interested in birds, although birds are certainly my main window onto the natural world. Because of **the many places birding has taken me, I've become more aware** of the value of and threats to a large number of ecosystems—and this has made me care more about conservation. Although I **don't have the same depth of knowledge as I do with birds, I** definitely enjoy watching mammals and butterflies, for example. I also think astronomy is fascinating—quite a difference from thinking about one type of organism on one planet. My other interests include computers, sports, and music.



**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?

**BVD:** The (non-birding) friends I have, at least from high school, are largely indifferent to birding. Some appreciate it more than others, but not many want to try it. I wish I had tried harder to take them birding—perhaps some may **have appreciated it after all...**

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

**BVD:** The key here, I think, is just exposure at a relatively young age to how awesome and cool nature is. **Without that experience, I don't see** young people becoming interested in natural systems. Schools, particularly elementary schools, could focus more **on incorporating "outdoor classrooms"** or similar concepts into their **curriculums. I'm sure there are other** ways, too.

**GW:** How do you think the internet can help foster a community of young

birders?

**BVD:** **It's clear that the internet can do a great deal to foster the** young birder community. Since we are a group of people spread relatively far and are usually not concentrated (with exceptions), the internet as a connecting force can (and does) help bring everyone into direct and instant communication with one another.

**GW:** What are some of the most exciting birding destinations you have visited?

**BVD:** **I immensely enjoyed my time on VENT's Camp Chiricahua** in southeastern Arizona. That said, I was able to travel to Ecuador this summer for a few weeks to help conduct research on Antbirds in the Amazon rainforest, so that was quite spectacular as well.

**GW:** **You've attended many birding camps, conventions, and/or** conferences. How valuable do you think these are for young birders?

BVD: I think these are very important, as they expose young birders to potentially new and hopefully exciting places, birds, and people. This can go a long way towards motivate a person to continue to cultivate an interest in birds, the natural world, and conservation. Just like exposure to the natural world is the key to get more young people interested in it, exposing young birders to the many amazing places out there (and the people who care) is the key to motivating a generation to help understand and protect them.

GW: What organizations do you belong to?

BVD: Being from New York, I of course belong to the New York State YBC. I belong to a bunch of birding organizations there and a few national ones (ABA, AOU, etc.), although I rarely have time to read all of the publications!

GW: You are going to be a freshman at Cornell University this fall. What advice do you have for high school students who are considering college?

BVD: My advice, in general, would be to take the most challenging courses given that you can handle, especially in science and math (if you want to go that route). Get involved in organizations in school, outside of school, and in your community that will let the college you apply to really see how passionate you are about what you care about. Make sure to work hard through junior year, because those are the most recent grades colleges will see when you apply...

GW: What is your dream job?

BVD: **I'm not quite sure where I want to end up, but I hope it's somewhere where I can learn about and help protect birds and the ecosystems in which they are such crucial parts.**

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

BVD: My family has a very sweet dog named Ella!

GW: Do you volunteer anywhere?

BVD: In the summer I sometimes help out at a local M.A.P.S. **bird banding station, and I've volunteered in Maine to help study seabirds.**

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

BVD: I did the Cornell Home Study Course in Bird Biology, which I definitely recommend for those who are motivated to read **through an entire textbook on birds. Aside from that, I haven't taken (or taught) any ornithology courses, although I'm definitely planning to do so at Cornell.**

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

BVD: I do keep a life list, thanks to the ease of using eBird.org. My world life list currently stands at 890 species, my ABA list at **545. Areas in the country I haven't yet been to (there are many)** include the southeast (especially Florida), Texas, and the central prairies (would love to go to North Dakota one summer).

GW: Congratulations on winning 5<sup>th</sup> place at the 2012 Intel Science Talent Search. Could you briefly describe your project?

BVD: I investigated why primarily nocturnal migrant species often reorient and fly in seasonally unexpected directions in the early morning following a night of migration—such as towards the north or northwest when their destinations (i.e., wintering grounds) lie to the south. To do this, I combined morning flight observations made by me and a team of volunteers with wind, synoptic weather, radar, and acoustic data from the preceding nights. At least along the coast, this seemingly odd behavior may be used by birds to correct for wind drift and avoid being pushed out to sea during subsequent migratory flights—a vital navigational behavior.



Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) was named an **"Outstanding Project"** by Ohio EPA's Ohio Environmental Education Fund



We received this beautiful recycled glass award to recognize the accomplishment! We are so proud of this program and so very grateful to all of the people - of all ages - that support our efforts!

# SPRING FLING IN CENTRAL OHIO, BY CHLOE DEGITZ, AGE 13



Photo of Chloe Degitz

As I was standing outside, waiting for OYBC Advisor Gerry to pick me up in the morning at 7:30 a.m., I realized that it was extremely cold and it probably wasn't going to get any warmer -- how right I was. Despite the extreme cold, everyone had a blast as we traipsed all around Central Ohio!

First, we started at the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, Ohio State University's experimental wetlands, where we had fun with our guides Alex Champagne and Alex Hughes of the OSU Ornithology Club. They took us on a tour of the surrounding area and helped point out some of the 174 species that can be seen in the wetlands. We got done a little early, so Alex C. said he could take us into the wetlands areas that are closed to the public. Although the boardwalks were slippery and covered in Canada Goose poo, everyone had fun posing for the cameras. Then, as we were leaving the wetlands, some of us spotted what we thought was a Sora...pretty cool, considering these birds are difficult to see.

After (sadly) leaving the wetlands, we went a short distance to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center where we ate lunch and listened to Tom Bain -- a birder, naturalist & conservationist. Tom was kind enough to spend some time teaching us about warbler identification. He taught us about some cool warblers and their sounds. Here's one: "If I sees you, I will seize you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt." What warbler is that? That warbler is a Warbling Vireo.

The brief reprieve from the cold was over and it was back outside to Blendon Woods Metro Park to have a tour with Bruce Simpson, the park naturalist. He took us to some of the places where he had seen interesting birds. Then, we went to a nearby lake where we saw some Wood Ducks, a

Green Heron, Mallards, Wild Turkeys, and many others.

After the wonderful tour with Bruce, we headed over to the Hoover Reservoir Park Boardwalk to check out an awesome Osprey nesting platform. With Columbus Audubon President Bill Heck as our guide, we also saw many other birds, like a Forster's Tern, Common Tern, American Coot and a Common Loon (spotted by Trevor). Then we headed to a path near the boardwalk where we saw a Palm Warbler.

It was a wonderful, fun-filled, chilly day and I want to say a big thank you to all the guides, mentors and the OYBC members who drove all the way from Michigan. I enjoyed identifying birds, hanging out with friends, meeting new bird lovers and the best end to a great birding trip.....ice cream!



OYBC Students with Gerry Brevoort and John Sawvel

## OYBC STUDENT ARTWORK



American Robin  
Nathan Martineau, Age 15

# PILEATED WOODPECKER, BY TREVOR ZOOK, AGE 13



Trevor on the beach at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

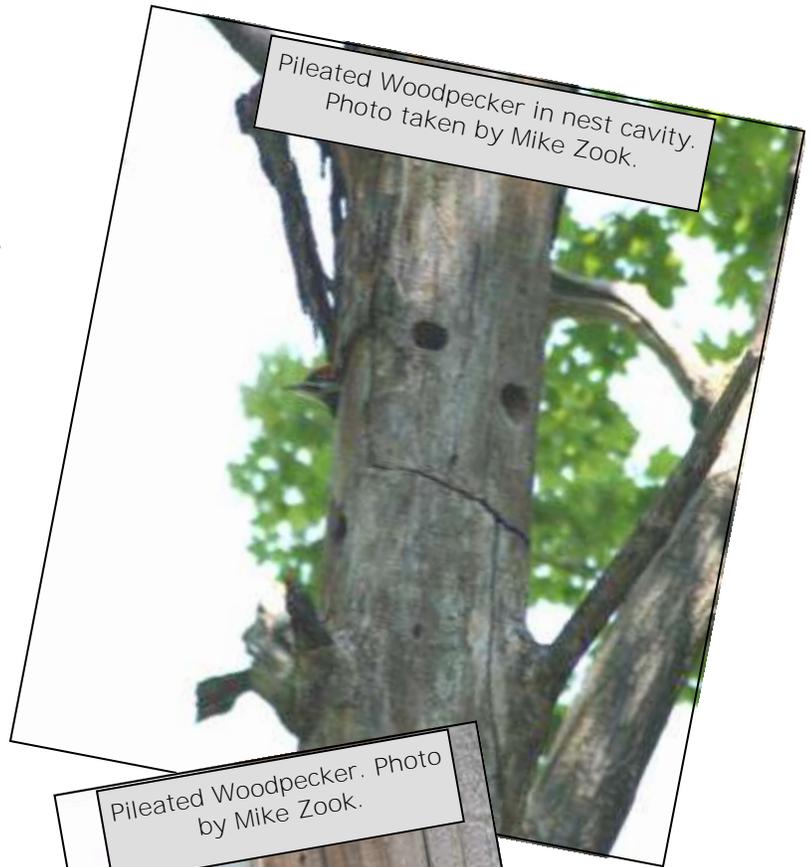
It was early January and I was at my **grandparents' house**. I got a text message from my parents saying they had just seen a Pileated Woodpecker in our backyard. I rushed home only to find out it had flown away a few minutes ago. It always came **around when I wasn't** there. I was getting fed up, one of my favorite birds is in my backyard, **and I can't seem to find** it.

After a few weeks I finally got to see it on a tree behind my house. We watched them feed on a tree in our yard and a fallen log just beyond our fence. A few weeks later we found that there were actually a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers and they were pecking a nest hole in a tree near our yard.

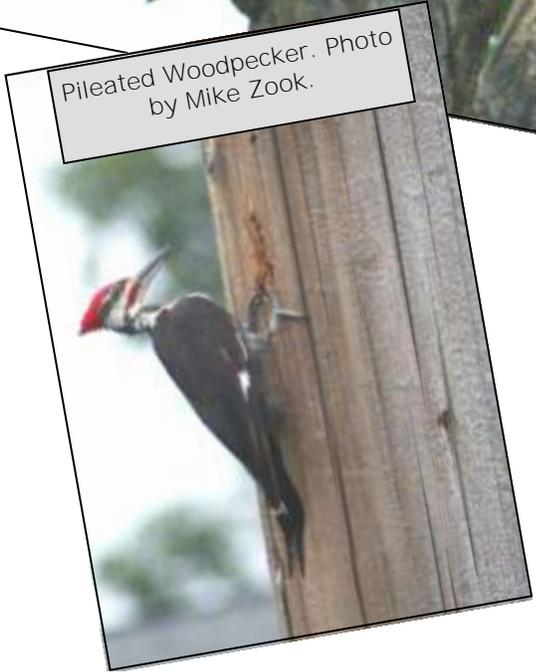
For a whole month, all we heard was the loud pounding of the woodpeckers making their nest. I would walk out by the tree occasionally, and get pieces of wood dropped on my head from the female digging out the bigger chunks from the hole.

About a month of barely seeing either of them, they finally started coming around again. I realized that they were coming and going from the hole a lot more than they had been, and I hoped that the eggs had hatched. Sure enough, after about a week, two baby heads were sticking out of the hole, one male, and one female. For a while, my mom and dad had a very unusual alarm clock when they chicks would call for food. - We watched the parents feed them for a few days before they fledged.

**We still see them in our "woods" and on telephone poles around our house.** Neither of them has a full crest or tail yet, but they will probably grow them soon. Hopefully they will **stick around for a while. I don't see the adults** much anymore, but the juveniles are still **living near our house. They don't often** reuse holes, but I hope they are back next year.



Pileated Woodpecker in nest cavity. Photo taken by Mike Zook.



Pileated Woodpecker. Photo by Mike Zook.

*Interested in contributing artwork to or being interviewed by GOLDEN-WINGS? Contact the Ohio Young Birders Club at [info@ohioyoungbirders.org](mailto:info@ohioyoungbirders.org)*

Saw-Whet Owl  
May Martineau, Age 13



Blackburnian Warbler  
Kristina Polk, Age 17



Great Egret  
May Martineau, Age 13

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



I got up at around 6:30 a.m. (which compared with other OYBC field trips isn't very early) and drove two and a half hours to Oak Harbor and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. The first thing we did as a group was go to the Magee boardwalk to see some re-

cently banded birds shown to us by BSBO Education Director Ken Keffer. Two of the birds were Gray Catbirds. One of them was a second year bird. You can tell the difference, we were told, from the color on the edges of their primary coverts. The second year catbird had brown edges to its primaries, and the adult had gray edges just like the rest of its body. The next two birds were a Common Yellowthroat and an American Redstart. As soon as they were released, we added these to our list of birds seen that day. We learned about **how the number on the bird's band was similar to one of our security numbers** because there is no other one like it. We learned about how the birds with little body fat were most likely the resident birds because all the birds that would be migrating on would need the stored fat to continue.

After Ken's presentation, we went down the trail, and it was pretty uneventful until we got to a very large group of people standing in the middle of the trail. The group had their binoculars facing in the same general direction.

After some asking around I figured out that they were **all looking at a Kirtland's Warbler**. I'm sure for many, if not all, of the OYBC members, was a lifer. We continued on, racking up a Dunlin, a Dowitcher, and a Great Egret.



When we got back to the parking area I was dehydrated, but extremely excited. My dad and I walked to the car but when we got back to meet up with the group everybody was gone. We caught wind of a Ruddy Turnstone down on the beach, and we figured that everyone had gone there. **We hurried over, and I don't know about everyone else, but I got another lifer! After our Ruddy Turnstone we took a walk down the beach. I wasn't actually paying attention to the birds during this walk (shame on me), but I'm pretty sure that most people got a Yellow-billed Cuckoo.**

After our walk on the beach we decided to eat lunch near the east entrance to the boardwalk. We sat eating pretty uneventfully until my brother Nathan said he saw a green heron preening right by the boardwalk. There was another bird to add to the list!

One by one, we finished our lunches and started walking on the boardwalk. The first bird we saw was a Tennessee Warbler and the first we heard was a Common Yellowthroat (singing "witchety-witchety-witchety"). **As we continued on, we met Greg Miller.** We also saw a Mourning Warbler and a mystery warbler. At first we thought the **mystery bird was a Swainson's Warbler, but later with a little more research, we shot that down.** As we finished up our walk we came out with a list of 98 species. Among them were: Canada, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Prothonotary, Cape May, Blackpoll, Chestnut-sided, Nashville, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted Warblers, Northern Parula, Veery, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-headed and Philadelphia Vireos, and American Woodcock.

Metzger Marsh was our final stop. We collected 17 new bird species there. We ended the day with five species over our goal of 110, raising the total for pledges we collected to benefit Columbus Audubon, the sponsors of the OYBC Central Ohio Chapter. Driving five hours round trip was more than worth it for 115 species and 18 lifers!

## SPECIES LIST

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pied-billed grebe             | Tufted titmouse              |
| Double-crested cormorant      | White-breasted nuthatch      |
| Great blue heron              | Carolina wren                |
| Great egret                   | House wren                   |
| Snowy egret                   | Ruby-crowned kinglet         |
| Green heron                   | Blue-gray gnatcatcher        |
| Turkey vulture                | Veery                        |
| Osprey                        | Gray-cheeked thrush          |
| Trumpeter swan                | Swainson's thrush            |
| Canada Goose                  | Hermit thrush                |
| Wood duck                     | Wood thrush                  |
| Mallard                       | American robin               |
| Northern pintail              | Gray catbird                 |
| Bald eagle                    | Northern mockingbird         |
| Red-tailed hawk               | European starling            |
| American Kestrel              | Cedar waxwing                |
| Common Gallinule              | Tennessee warbler            |
| American Coot                 | Nashville w.                 |
| Sandhill Crane                | Northern parula              |
| Semipalmated Plover           | Yellow warbler               |
| Killdeer                      | Chestnut-sided warbler       |
| Least Sandpiper               | Magnolia warbler             |
| Dunlin                        | Cape may warbler             |
| Short-Billed dowitcher        | Black-throated blue warbler  |
| Long-Billed dowitcher         | Yellow-rumped warbler        |
| Ruddy Turnstone               | Black-throated green warbler |
| Wilson's snipe                | Blackburnian warbler         |
| American woodcock             | Kirtland's warbler           |
| Ring-billed gull              | Palm warbler                 |
| Herring gull                  | Bay-breasted warbler         |
| Common tern                   | Blackpoll warbler            |
| Rock dove                     | Black and White warbler      |
| Mourning dove                 | American Redstart            |
| Black-Billed cuckoo           | Prothonotary warbler         |
| Yellow-Billed cuckoo          | Ovenbird                     |
| Great horned owl              | Northern Waterthrush         |
| Chimney swift                 | Mourning warbler             |
| Red-bellied woodpecker        | Common Yellowthroat          |
| Downy woodpecker              | Wilson's warbler             |
| Olive-sided flycatcher        | Canada warbler               |
| Eastern wood pewee            | Scarlet Tanager              |
| Willow flycatcher             | Northern Cardinal            |
| Least flycatcher              | Rose-breasted Grosbeak       |
| Eastern phoebe                | Eastern Towhee               |
| Great crested flycatcher      | Chipping Sparrow             |
| Eastern Kingbird              | Song Sparrow                 |
| Blue-headed vireo             | Lincoln's Sparrow            |
| Warbling vireo                | White-crowned Sparrow        |
| Philadelphia vireo            | Bobolink                     |
| Red-eyed vireo                | Red-winged Blackbird         |
| Blue jay                      | Eastern Meadowlark           |
| American crow                 | Common Grackle               |
| Tree swallow                  | Brown-headed Cowbird         |
| Northern rough-winged swallow | Baltimore Oriole             |
| Cliff swallow                 | House Finch                  |
| Barn swallow                  | American Goldfinch           |
| Black-Capped chickadee        | House Sparrow                |



## Kayaking and Birding:

The Ohio Young Birders Club members met on Saturday, June 9 at The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition (TAASC) in Powell, Ohio to go on a kayaking and bird watching tour at Twin Lakes, an inlet to the Scioto River in Powell, Ohio. We started our tour at around 9:00 in the morning. I saw many different species of birds during the two hours we were kayaking. I brought my binoculars with me on the boat, so I could see birds from a distance.

The first type of bird I saw was a turkey vulture. They were circling high above the treetops, and I could tell they were not hawks because they had differently shaped wings. When I was paddling around I saw several tree swallows and barn swallows flying over the water. Two tree swallows were just a few feet away from my kayak, and they fed each other in the air. Another bird I saw while I was kayaking was the great blue heron. I saw a few of them standing on the coastline, and I saw others flying right above my head.

My favorite bird I saw was a green heron, which I saw walking on a log floating in the water. I never saw this bird before, and I was glad I got a chance to see it. Another type of bird I saw was a group of cedar waxwings, which were perched on some branches near the coastline. While I was kayaking, I moved under a bridge and I was surprised to see several nests inside holes made by swallows. I got to see many different species of birds at the Twin Lakes. The bird I liked most was the green heron. I was really glad I had the chance to bird while kayaking.

## Nest Boxes:

After a delicious lunch, Darlene took us around to the different nest boxes she had set up around the TAASC property. The first one we visited was a tree swallow nest box. It had five fledglings, which were about a week and a half old. They were the cutest things! Their feathers were just starting to emerge from the shafts and they still had a little bit of their down feathers mixed in with the new feathers. As Darlene picked up the first one, it pooped on her, leaving a fecal sac. The feces of the bird are inside a protective membrane so that the parents can remove the feces from the nest without making a mess. Most people got to hold one of the fledglings, and everyone took pictures of those cute, little things.

The other nest box we stopped at was a purple martin house. In one of the gourds hanging from the house, we found newborn chicks, only a few days old. These could not open their eyes and they were completely pink because their down had not even grown in yet. We found another gourd that had more of the newborn chicks and a couple of the apartments in the house had eggs. It was a very cool experience to see and hold these newborn chicks and the fledglings.

## Mussel Research Tour:

Following the banding, the members made a brief peregrination down the road to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Freshwater Mussel Research Facility where we were greeted by Tom and Trisha. Each spoke of how their work pertains to the two main functions of the lab: 1) mitigation projects, which aim to restore destroyed mussel habitat; and 2) host-identification, a crucial step in species recovery. The two marine biologists also outlined mussel recovery and basic biology.

Freshwater mussels are actually bivalves, and are only loosely related to their marine counterparts. Bivalves are parasites. The mature mussel will clamp onto a fish and release the tens of thousands of its offspring, known as glochidium, into the fish's gills. The glochidium will live in the gills until they mature to the point of being juveniles, which can take a few days to a month depending on the species. When they do reach adolescence, the bivalves drop off from the fish. Each species of freshwater mussel has a specific host species of fish. For this reason, host-identification plays an important role in mussel conservation.



## ... BIRDING BY KAYAK CONTINUED...

While they have existed since the Triassic period, approximately two dozen North American freshwater mussel species have gone extinct in the last one to two hundred years. Species native to Ohio have also decreased over the years. Of these, 22 remain common, such as the Wabash Pigtoe and Fat Mucket; 25 are endangered, like the Monkeyface and White Catpaw; 14 are extirpated, such as the colorfully named orange-foot pimpleback and ellipse; and six, including the Cincinnati Riffleshell and Scioto Pigtoe, are extinct. Habitat destruction and, more recently with the introduction of zebra and quaga mussels to the Lake Erie and Ohio River watersheds, invasive species are the two leading causes of bivalve decline.

The facility biologists have had, in terms of providing a healthy diet, the most success with muck dredged up from the bottom of the Scioto River. This simply delicious dirt is supplemented with a scrumptious stream of the microalgae *Nannochloropsis salina*. Bivalves can live to be two hundred years old, although most have life spans of ten to forty years.

In addition to the remarkable bivalve and host-fish species being nurtured in the facility, the club also



Inside the Columbus Zoo mussel research facility.

had the opportunity to observe a hellbender. Hellbenders are one of the largest salamander species in the world—growing to over two feet in length—and may also serve as host species for freshwater mussels. The particular hellbender we admired had previously proved to not be a viable host for any of the bivalves at the facility and is due to be released into the wild.

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Freshwater Mussel Research Facility is one of less than a dozen in North America, and is the only one to be operated by a zoo. The many aquariums and mussel beds of the facility are housed within the former dance hall of the Jefferey Scioto Country Club.

Freshwater mussels are noted for their delicate constitution which makes them reliable environmental indicators. To observe the HQ of one of the few major players in bivalve conservation was indeed a privilege not lightly given to mortal men or teens.

List compiled by Nathan Martineau

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Northern Harrier  
Red Shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Killdeer  
Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood Pewee  
Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Cedar Waxwing  
Yellow Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
American Redstart  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Scarlet Tanager  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch

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Look for the below logo on the OYBC or BSBO homepages.

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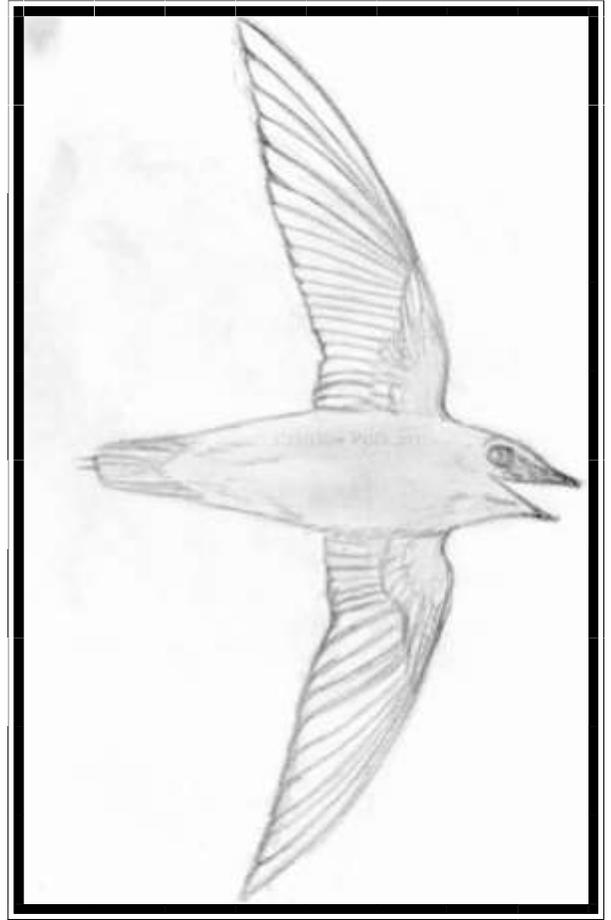
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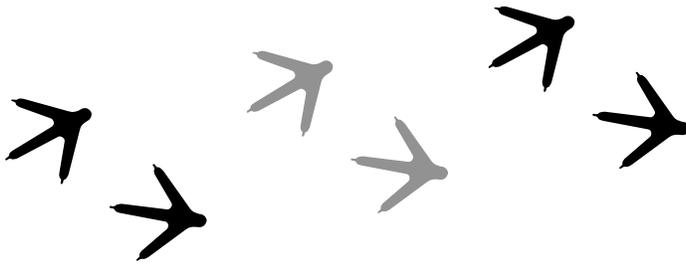
# SWIFTS BY KRISTINA POLK, AGE 17

## Perfection Found

Gliding with something beyond grace, the swifts sweep through the amber sky on needle wings. Their bubbling voices scatter notes like raindrops on all ears in range as they effortlessly twist midair in their sunset frenzy. Their feathers fan and fold with the changing winds, hairpin turns making for spectacular displays. Quickly, quickly, they zip over and under one another in a chaotic yet elegant whirl. Carefully reckless and abandoning any concept of impossibility, the birds hungrily fly into the wind. The bristles on their bills ruffle erratically. Nothing is between the swifts and the horizon: they have their sights set on the end of time. Barely distinguishable wingbeats carry them closer with each passing second. Their simple task of nourishing themselves on airborne insects has evolved into a dance of freedom, a passion for the sky and an unimaginable vigor radiating from their feathers. Minuscule in comparison to the atmosphere are the swifts, yet they decline to acknowledge their apparent insignificance. The birds are simply overflowing with energy and ability and life. Their tiny shadows ripple over the surface of the earth, the only reminder of their reality. Divinity is found not in distant starry fantasies, but in the feathered beings in the skies above our heads. We need not scour the universe for perfection, for it is present in birds.



Chimney Swift drawn by Kristina Polk.



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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](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org) for a sponsorship form  
or contact BSBO at 419-898-4070

# ADVENTURES AT CAMP! BY KAYLA PARRY, AGE 14

## Hog Island Audubon Camp for Teens



I didn't really know what to expect when I first decided to go to Maine in June, as this was the first bird camp I'd ever been to. However, now, at the end of it all, one of my biggest disappointments was that I didn't get dive-bombed by a tern because I was too short!! To sum up my experience at Hog Island, it was basically an unforgettable and amazing experience.

As with most birdwatchers, the people there were very friendly and welcoming. The island itself was absolutely gorgeous and fascinating (at least for someone from "flat" Northwest Ohio). I learned so much by going there; from the Black-throated Green Warbler's songs to the unusual eating habits of Great Black-back Gulls and so much more. I loved being out on the coast and on islands. Maine has been a place I've wanted to bird for a long time, and it surely didn't disappoint! I don't think I've ever seen so many birds in such a small area as on Eastern Egg Rock Island (one of the three major islands we were on during the week). There was no where one could look without seeing some kind of bird, nest, or egg. I had

very high expectations for Egg Rock from others' descriptions of it, and I was completely blown away! Actually, I think all of the other campers were, too. There was even a time that we were given a small lecture to pay attention to the people talking instead of the birds because we were all so excited! I'm not much of a photographer, but I had close to one thousand pictures of Egg Rock alone (which for me is a lot, considering we spent only a couple of hours there)!

My parents dropped me off early at Hog Island on the day of our arrival so that they could look around and go bird watching there as well. When my mom and I saw our first Black Guillemots and Common Eiders, I was so ecstatic, but by the end of the week, I got so used to seeing and hearing lifers that I knew I wouldn't be able to see again for a long time, I was just excited all the time!

However, we did get to see many other creatures besides birds. On the beach at Hog Island, there were almost always moon jellies that we would "rescue" by returning them to the water. Picking up jellyfish has got to be one of the oddest things I've ever done (since I'm deathly afraid of them)! Along with the jellies were many, many snails, crabs, a horseshoe crab (who we rescued and named *Harry*), and a sea cucumber that turned out to just be a piece of seaweed that looked a lot like a sea cucumber. On the other parts of the island Garter Snakes were discovered, named *Creeper* and *Steve*, along with *Virginia*, the shrew, and a Milk Snake. Also, out on the dock one night, we attracted fish, shrimp, and other water life with flashlights, watched their bioluminescence



and stargazed (thankfully, we did all of this without sinking the dock!). While traveling from island to island, we were able to observe Harbor Seals and in more open areas a few Harbor Porpoises- both of which I found to be very exciting.

But, out of all the fun animals we saw - both bird and non-bird - the very best thing to watch was by far the Atlantic Puffins on Egg Rock. They were so adorable and their quirkiness only made them even more so. For me, puffin- watching on Egg Rock was the highlight of the whole trip to Maine (yes, it even beat

hiking through the rocks on Harbor Island, reaching my ultimate goal of hearing loons yodel, and playing the alphabet game on the road fifteen times by myself!). We were all put in observation blinds and were given the responsibility of searching out the puffins with fish in their mouths (the tell-tale sign of baby puffins), any banded puffins, and (if at all) which burrow they entered (the burrows were numbered). The blind I was in had six people, and we all made a point of getting pictures of puffins with fish, puffins with bands, and then of course recording all of our findings. Then for the fun and the challenge of it, we set about a side task of photographing puffins in flight (which at the very least is a challenge for an amateur). I must say I ended up with quite a few pictures of empty sky, but was very happy with the few pictures I got with flying birds in them- puffin or not! Even with all the fun we had, our most exciting development was the possibility of a new burrow!

Throughout the week I spent in Maine, I had many memorable experiences and was able to hang out with some really friendly and cool people. I was able to see some amazing creatures and learn so much about them. There were so many things that I got to do at this camp that I wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. Overall, it was an unforgettable and fun adventure!

# SWIFT NIGHT OUT, BY JACK ROY, AGE 13

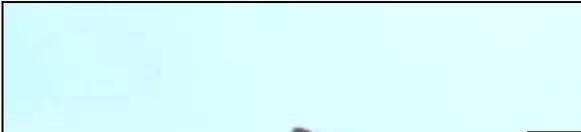
## Swift Night Out

*Editor's introduction: On September 7, 2012, OYBC members and advisors came along on the Columbus Audubon field trip to Indian Springs Elementary School in Clintonville for an evening of Chimney Swift watching and counting. The young birders enjoyed a dessert potluck and thrilled to the spectacle of the Chimney Swifts as the sun set.*

I am a new member of OYBC and this was my first event with them. When I arrived, it was really great to meet everyone and I felt comfortable being there. The group was there to watch Chimney Swifts roost in an old school chimney.

Early on, there were only a few Swifts circling, then flying away. A guest speaker, Dick Tuttle, helped us learn all about the Chimney Swift and related species. One thing I learned is that the birds have barbs on their tails to help them cling to the chimney! Dick had samples (study skins) of the birds and a nest. Later, more and more Chimney Swifts gathered until the sky was filled with flying "cigars," swirling and circling around the chimney. Their sound was a faint chirping. Near dark, Swifts by the handfuls dived into the chimney until at exactly 8:19 pm, there were none left in the sky. Members counted over 600 birds!

This event was awesome! It makes me want to go to all events!



Chimney Swift in flight. Photo by Kenn Kaufman.



## BSBO bids farewell to our Education Director Ken Keffer

We're very sad to see Ken go, but we wish him all the best and we're happy that he's agreed to keep helping us as a volunteer no matter where in the world he's living! Ken is moving on to pursue a career in curling (the kind with the sticks and rocks), and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

We're gonna miss you Ken! Thanks for stopping by, Little Buddy!

# CEDAR BOG BY BSBO STAFF



Cedar Bog boardwalk. Photo by Jennifer Callaway.

## Cedar Bog Field Trip

Seven students and nine adults attended our July 21st Cedar Bog field trip. Of course, Cedar Bog is actually a fen and not a bog. It's a fascinating place!

The students enjoyed observing the carnivorous Sundew plant. We did not see the Eastern Massasaugua Rattlesnake that day, however, they are found there.

We observed numerous butterfly species and many other plants. Our footsteps startled several Five-lined Skinks that scurried along the boardwalk before disappearing between the boards. Two or three White-eyed Vireos sang along the boardwalk. We saw a singing Yellow-throated Warbler and heard the Acadian Flycatcher.

In the sedge meadow area along the boardwalk, we were thrilled to see a tiny Elfin Skimmer dragonfly, which is the smallest dragonfly in North America. It is now known to exist in only three spots in Ohio. We saw both, the male and female, perched next to the boardwalk.

The Elfin Skimmer dragonfly

made the nearby bluet damselflies look big! The Elfin Skimmer dragonfly is less than one-inch long, and it has the diameter of a quarter. We found the dragonflies by searching for a flying insect, approximately the size of a fly or bee. The dragonflies would lift up and settle back down, perching in the vegetation along the boardwalk. They need to be seen in person to appreciate how small these dragonflies are. We hope to add Cedar Bog to our 2013 event calendar.



Sundew plant at Cedar Bog. Photo by Jennifer Callaway.

Here are a couple quotes from adults who attended the field trip:

"Thanks for putting this field trip out there! I was so impressed with Cedar Bog – **I can't believe I had not heard of the place!**"

"We really enjoyed the trip to Cedar Bog. It was one of my favorite trips to date. The diversity is truly amazing! The highlight of my trip was easily the Elfin Skimmer pair. Kat did a great job pointing out the various plant life, especially finding the sundew plants!"



Above is the male Elfin Skimmer dragonfly. Photo was taken by adult supporter Michael Zook.



Above is the female Elfin Skimmer dragonfly. Photo was taken by adult supporter Michael Zook.

# AUGUST SHOREBIRD FIELD TRIP BY BSBO STAFF



## August Shorebird Field Trip Sponsored by Kirtland Bird Club

About 35 people, including a dozen students, attended the August 18th OYBC shorebird field trip with the Kirtland Bird Club to the marshes near Sandusky Bay. The weather was fantastic with a sunny sky, temps in the 70s, and nice breeze along the lake.

We started at a private marsh where Tom Bartlett and Keith Norris maintained a shorebird banding station. The banders were busy, approaching 100 birds banded for the day. Keith said they normally band about 25 shorebirds.

Several students got to hold and release shorebirds. Larry Richardson, our guide for the day, explained shorebird identification and the importance of critical stopover habitat. We spent about two hours at the private marsh.

After lunch, we visited Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, which is located near the Cedar Point amusement park. Pipe Creek contains some of the best shorebird habitat, currently available in northwest Ohio. At Pipe Creek, we also observed odes, lepids, and songbirds. We ended our day at 4:00 p.m.

Some of our bird sightings for the day included American Avocet, Red-necked Phalarope, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, and a male Black-throated Blue Warbler.



*Interested in contributing artwork to or being interviewed by  
GOLDEN-WINGS?  
Contact the Ohio Young Birders Club at  
[info@ohioyoungbirders.org](mailto:info@ohioyoungbirders.org)*

BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY & THE OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB  
PRESENTS THE 6TH ANNUAL YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB CONFERENCE



Saturday & Sunday, November 3 & 4, 2012  
hosted by  
Aullwood Audubon Farm & Center



Student Rate \$10 / Adult Rate \$20  
You do not have to be a member to attend, and adults are encouraged to attend too.

The 2012 keynote speaker is Benjamin Van Doren from White Plains, NY

The title of Benjamin's presentation is:  
"Witnessing the Invisible and Understanding the Unexpected: Nocturnal Migration and Morning Flight"

Benjamin is a freshman at Cornell University. He is a former president of the New York State Young Birders Club and is fascinated by avian migration. His research into the phenomenon of morning flight was recognized earlier this year when he won fifth place in the national Intel Science Talent Search in Washington, D.C.

The Master of Ceremony will be Jacob Stin-

**Special Guest Speaker:**  
Hope Batcheller who is a student at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Hope will discuss opportunities for young birders. Hope was the keynote speaker at the 2008 OYBC conference.

Saturday, November 3rd, Activities Include:

- Morning Field Trip
- Morning songbird banding demo
- Prothonotary Warbler nest box assembly
- Student Presentations
- Kaufman Bird I.D. Quiz
- Lunch provided by Jerri's Catering
- Fabulous Door Prizes & Raffle Prizes
- Live Birds from Raptor Inc.

The OYBC Student Presenters Include:

- Kristina Polk - "Birding and Conservation"
- Dakota Outcalt - "How Citizen Science Helps Birds"
- Kathleen Seeley - "Auk! A Week of Coastal Seabirds in Maine"
- Doug Whitman - "Birding Without Birding: The Art of Passive Birding"
- Kayla Parry - "The Life of a Birdwatcher"

The Kaufman Bird ID Quiz Assistants include:

- Nathan Martineau
- Trevor Zook
- Ethan Rising

Optional Sunday, November 4th, Field Trip:

On Sunday morning, from 8:30 a.m. until noon, we will hold a field trip that is tentatively planned for Englewood Metropark, which is located near Aullwood and near the conference host hotel.

Lodging Information:

Several rooms have been reserved at a discount rate for conference attendees at the Best Western Dayton Northwest hotel, located at 20 Rockridge Rd; Englewood, OH 45322.

The room rate is \$59.99 + tax per night. This discount applies if you stay one night or two nights, which would be Friday, November 2 and/or Saturday, November 3. This rate includes a full breakfast that is served on the weekends starting at 7:00 a.m.

To make reservations call the hotel directly at 937-832-2222 and mention that you are with Black Swamp Bird Observatory. The hotel is located five miles from Dayton International Airport.



# OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

*Additional field trip information at [www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org).  
To register for any of these events, or for more information, please  
contact the BSBO at 419-898-4070.*

The 6th Annual OYBC conference  
Saturday, November 3, 2012  
8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm  
Dayton, Ohio

The annual OYBC Conference is a revolutionary event. In addition to student presentations, the event includes a field trip, door prizes, and a bird quiz led by noted author Kenn Kaufman. The OYBC conference is a great way to meet young birders from all over, and to see what unique opportunities the OYBC can provide! See page 17 for more information, and pages 4-5 for an interview with **this year's Keynote Speaker, Benjamin Van Doren.**

Registration deadline is October 31st  
\$10 / student, \$20 / adult

*"The most inspiring event in conservation."*

Saw-whet Owl Netting and Banding  
Saturday, November 10, 2012

The Central Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club will be netting and banding Saw-whet Owls at Buzzard's Roost Nature Preserve near Chillicothe. Bundle up and prepare to spend the evening/night hours in the dark woods with mist nets and (hopefully) owls!

Fremont Christmas Bird Count  
Saturday, December 29, 2012  
Fremont, Ohio (Sandusky County)

The Audubon CBC Code is OHFR. The count circle center point is located at the intersection of Route 20 and the Sandusky River. CBC participants split into at least five groups, indicated by the areas below. If enough participants attend, area 3 could be split into two and shared with an additional group. For more information, forms, and maps, please see Events Tab of the OYBC website ([www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)).

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

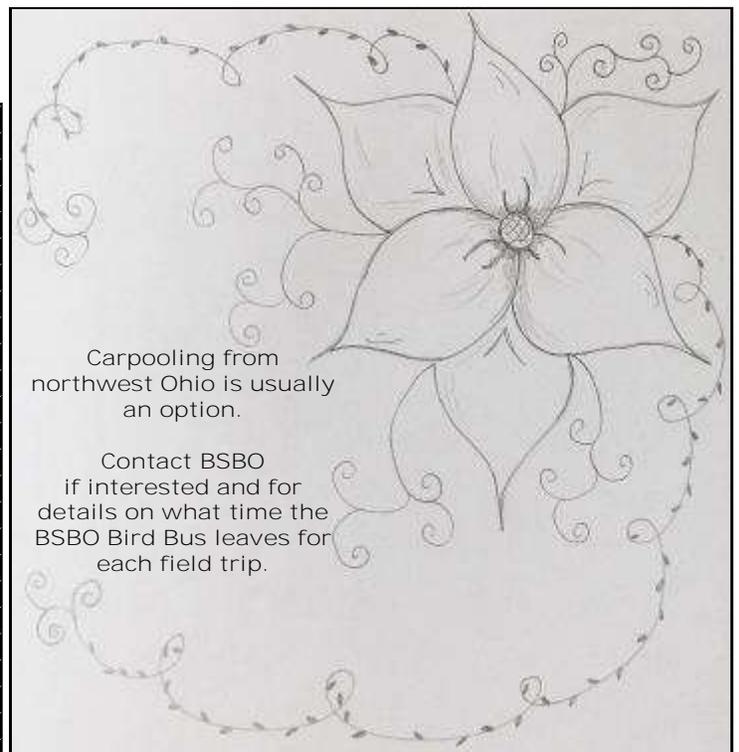
Participating in this national count has become a tradition for OYBC students, families, birders and scientists alike. Citizen science events like this are great fun and provide valuable research data, so bundle up and get outside for the birds.

*OYBC members are invited to participate in the Fremont CBC but there are other counts all around the state!*

Do YOU have an great idea for an OYBC field trip? **If so, we'd love to hear about it!**

Contact Kate Zimmerman—  
katezimmerman@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!



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

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Winie Barchick-Suter  
Jules Christensen  
Kyle Davis  
Brinley Fairband  
Innocence Godfrey  
Emily Greene  
Haden Huff  
Clark Jividen  
David Miller  
Alex Murray  
Noah Rask  
Matthew Requina  
Rachel Swartz

### ADULT MEMBERS

Tracy Ficker  
Robert Ficker  
Brenda Franey  
Sara L. Marsalek  
Lee Rask  
Peggy Seniuk  
Peter Seniuk  
Cooper Suter

Encourage your friends  
& family to become  
OYBC members!

Is your membership current?  
Many Ohio Young Birders Club  
Memberships are up for  
renewal for 2013.

FOLLOW THE OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB ON  
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[www.twitter.com/oybc](http://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!

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If Student, Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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