



OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2 SUMMER/FALL 2013

ENCOURAGING, EDUCATING, & EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH CONSERVATION LEADERS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Check out the 7th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference Registration Form & OYBC Annual "BIG SIT" Fundraiser Pledge Form



7th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference



8 AM—5 PM
Saturday, November 2nd
hosted by our partner the
Toledo Zoo
(2 Hippo Way, Toledo OH 43609)



Ohio Young Birders Club
Annual "BIG SIT" Fundraiser
Meadowbrook Marsh
(8577 E. Bayshore Rd, Marblehead, OH 43440)
Sunday, October 13th
8 AM—3 PM

Come join us and help the students spot birds!

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**Ohio Young Birders Club
(OYBC)**

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

Coordinators

Kate Zimmerman, BSBO
Kim Kaufman, BSBO
Gerry Brevoort, OYBC Central
Susan Setterlin, OYBC Central
Darlene Sillick, OYBC Central
Nadya Bennett, OYBC Central
Brian Herriott, OYBC SW
Lester Peyton, OYBC SW
Robin Parker, OYBC NW
Patty Toneff, OYBC NW
Melanie Coulter, OYBC NW

Youth Advisory Panel

Clare Jusdanis
Jacob Stinnett
Doug Whitman
Trevor Zook
Chloe Degitz

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.

13551 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449
419 898-4070 (voice)
419 898-1363 (fax)

Email: info@ohioyoungbirders.org

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



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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

Check Out The Latest OYBC Service Project!

Birding on the Grid by Stephen Bischoff

Just go to the OYBC website (www.ohioyoungbirders.org)
and click on the 'Service Projects' tab to read the inspiring story.



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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



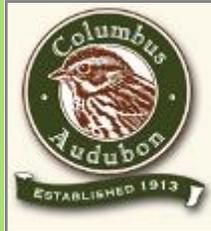
We are very happy to announce the creation of the
OYBC Holmes County Chapter!



If you are interested in finding out more information about this chapter,
please contact Robert Hershberger (Time & Optics, Ltd.–Millersburg, OH)
at 330-674-0210.

How are your Bird ID skills?

Check out the monthly OYBC website Bird ID Quiz
You could win FANTASTIC prizes each month!



"The Early Birders"

This past May, the OYBC Central Chapter created "The Early Birders" team and participated in Columbus Audubon's annual Bird-a-thon fundraiser. Check out page 11 for the whole story.

Twenty students tallied 147 bird species in 8 hours and raised more than \$1,300 in pledges for Columbus Audubon. OYBC members were honored with beautiful Certificates of Appreciation by Columbus Audubon in recognition of their participation.

Columbus Audubon enthusiastically supports the Central Ohio OYBC chapter and highly values the hopeful future these young people represent for our planet!

Join Us!

OYBC Annual
BIG SIT
For Conservation

Sunday, October 13th

Meadowbrook Marsh
(Marblehead, OH)

7th Annual OYBC Confer-



Saturday, Novem-
ber 2nd

Toledo Zoo
Toledo, OH

GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Kat Seeley
Ethan Rising
Joey Tomei
Nathan Martineau
Doug Whitman
Aaron Tayal
Trevor Zook
Kristina Polk
Stephen Bischoff
Elijah Martineau
Mackenzie Smitley

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:
Kate Zimmerman

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

- Trip Reports
- Species Profiles
- Creative Stories
- Book Reviews
- Sketches & Photos
- Fun Nature Fact

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is December 1, 2013

Email:
info@ohioyoungbirders.org

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

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Cover Photo:
OYBC Annual Big Sit Fundraiser & Ohio Young Birders Conference Announcement; Photo of 2012 OYBC Big Sit Fundraiser at Meadowbrook Marsh.

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

YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE: KAT SEELEY, AGE 18

GOLDENWINGS (GW) - What year did you start birding?

Kat Seeley (KS) - I started birding in 2008, when I attended my first OYBC event.

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

KS—Lukas Padegimas & Kim Kaufman

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

KS—Puffins are my current favorite, and I like them because they are so cute and they treat their mates so sweetly.

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

KS—The coast of Maine—there are so many birds you do not see in Ohio, like guillemots, puffins, and razorbills. There are also many wonderful flora species, and I love looking for plants that I've not seen before.

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

KS—I have wanted to see a Roseate Spoonbill in the wild since I was eight years old. They fascinate me as they look like they've come through Alice's looking glass.

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

KS—I enjoy botany in general and phycology to be specific. (Phycology is the study of algae)

GW – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

KS—I ride horses; read way too much fantasy; and dancing & listening to and playing newfie rock music. I also play pipe organ, piano, mountain dulcimer and flageolet.

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

KS—My mom & sister are both birders, as is my best friend.

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

KS—The internet has already fostered such a community, Jocotoco Wanderings, a Facebook page, is where young birders from all around the country talk about their life lists, birding trips, and other topics relating to nature.

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

KS—Yes. Last summer I was fortunate enough to go to Maine, where I spent a week on the National Audubon Society's Hog Island, and another week in Acadia National Park.

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

KS—Yes, I attended the 2009 Midwest Birding Symposium.

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

KS—I belong to the Ohio Academy of Science, Christian Campus House, Trine University Honors Association, and Phi Sigma.

GW - Where do you go to school?

KS—I attend Trine University, where I am studying biomedical and mechanical engineering.

GW - What is your dream job?

KS—My dream job would be being the principal investigator of a research and development team specializing in artificial tissues and membranes—tissues such as the artificial kidney the Cleveland Clinic is currently developing.

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?

KS—Yes. Birds are everywhere, and they are little reminders of nature's splendor.

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

KS—My own personal library consists of over 500 books, so to choose one above the others is quite difficult...I would have to go with *Going Postal*, by Sir Terry Pratchett.

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

KS—My favorite movie is "Ten Things I Hate About You". The main character (another girl called Kat) shares many of my views—particularly that of the identity of the self being more important than acceptance. I also really like how the movie is a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew".

GW – What's your favorite place to eat?

KS—*The Secret Garden* located in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

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

KS—I have a horse (April), a pony (Scooter), two dogs (Keesha & Lily), a cat (Strawberry), and fish.

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

KS—Yes, before I joined the OYBC, I thought that birding was for the elderly or expert. Meeting and becoming friends with my fellow members showed me that anyone can bird & have fun doing so.



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

THE EPIC DAY AT CAMP DENNISON BY ETHAN RISING, AGE 11



The latest OYBC SW Chapter trip was on March 9th. Instead of hiking at the Cincinnati Nature Center, the Club decided to take a trip to Camp Dennison Gravel Pits, also known as Grand Valley. There is a great duck migration there, but you need a special pass to get in. Of course, Bill Creasey knew all the right people and we got in. The day before there was a sighting of a Ross's Goose, so we had high hopes.

Grand Valley also has a spectacular population of Red-Winged Blackbirds, and that was the first thing we noticed, other than a Mockingbird and a kettle of Turkey Vultures. When we got to the shore, we set up the scopes and right away we saw waterfowl. In one scope view we were able to see Lesser Scaups, Ring-Necked Ducks, and Ruddy Ducks. We also saw Pied-Billed Grebes and Horned Grebes, along with a very deceptive female Bufflehead. Mallards and Canada Geese were abundant. There were coots EVERYWHERE, and Killdeer on what seemed like every possible shore.

When we decided that we had seen all we could there, we drove to the south end. We added Dark-Eyed Junco, White-Throated Sparrow, Blue Jay, Song Sparrow, and Carolina Chickadee. We scanned and scanned, (and scanned some more) and we finally spotted a pair of Green-Winged Teals, a pair of Hooded Mergansers, and a pair of Buffleheads. There were more rafts of Ruddy Ducks, and we picked out a Greater Scaup with a raft of Lessers. A pair of Belted Kingfishers was seen on the opposite shore also. Apparently good birds come in twos! Before we left we added a flyover Cooper's Hawk.

We drove back up to the north end, and we walked back towards some ponds. The ranger had mentioned a dead paddle fish, which we found near the shore. This location didn't have any new birds, but we got a great close-up of a mixed raft of Scaups which honed our ID skills. I think comparisons are the best way to learn ID. We kept on walking and we saw a Graylag x Canada Goose hybrid, another good comparison. It was when we were looking at some White-Crowned Sparrows that I saw something white fly right over us. I could barely get out, "W-white g-goose!", and we all looked up and it landed in a pond 100 yards in front of us, but on higher ground. We hurried over and there it was: feeding with some Canada Geese (another *amazing* comparison) like it didn't notice us. We stood there for a while and it didn't fly away. We finally turned around and started to walk towards the car when we saw it fly back north, but not high, probably to another gravel pit. That ended our day, an epic one, and Ross's Goose was our 30th species, lifebird 270 for me!

STUDENT PHOTOS



Below: Beautiful sunset among the Tree Swallow nest boxes.



Photos taken by Joey Tomei;
Below: Eastern Bluebird.
Bottom Right: Eastern Bluebird eggs in nest.



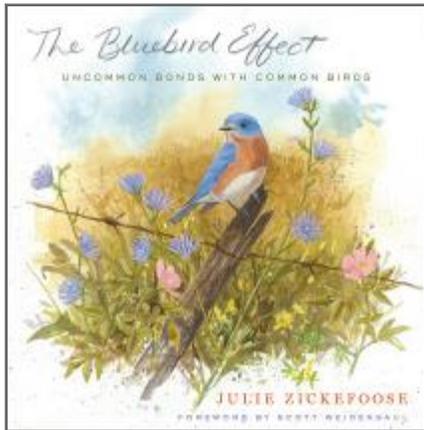
Photos taken by Joey Tomei.

Top Left: Tree Swallow nest box.

Left: Tree Swallow nestlings in nest box.



A REVIEW OF THE BLUEBIRD EFFECT BY JOEY TOMEI, AGE 14



The *Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds* is one of several books written by Julie Zickefoose. In the book, Julie Zickefoose writes about the interesting and unusual experiences she had with common species of birds, and how birds have influenced her perception of them. Julie describes the encounters she had with birds ranging from hummingbirds to raptors, and she tries to increase her understanding of the bird world. Zickefoose is a licensed bird rehabilitator, so she describes her experiences rehabilitating various species of birds.

Every bird she rehabilitates has their own unique personality and traits. Many of the birds she heals even remember her deed, and she gains the trust of the bird. For example, she raised an

orphaned Mourning Dove and she released it into the wild after it was independent, and it later came to visit her. Another example is when a Hairy Woodpecker hit one of her house's windows while it was near a birdfeeder, and the woodpecker could not fly to safety. This resulted in Julie examining the bird and finding that it was not seriously injured, so she placed the bird in a safe spot in a coniferous tree to fully heal. After the bird was fully recovered, it returned to the feeder again and had no fear of Zickefoose when she refilled the bird feeders. This is arguably a sign of trust from the Hairy Woodpecker.

I share many of the same thoughts of the author about birds. I relate to the author's appreciation of common birds, and I also relate to her close observation of backyard birds. One example is her observations of Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows on her property. This includes the birds establishing nest sites in her nest boxes. The author even dedicates a whole chapter to the European Starling, which is considered an invasive species and is extremely common. In the chapter, Julie mentioned the remarkable intelligence of the European Starling. She also mentioned that Starlings can imitate car alarms, bird songs, people talking, and other environmental sounds.

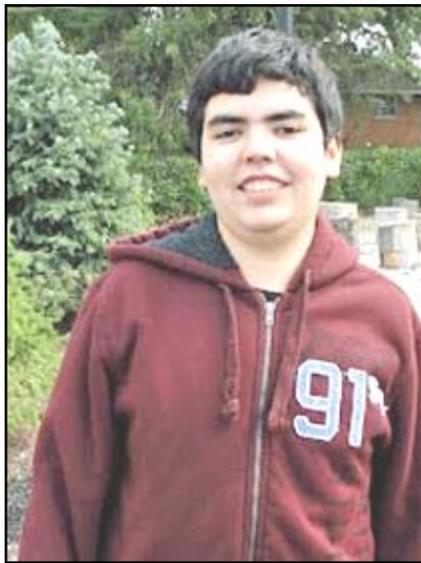


Photo of Joey Tomei.

Julie Zickefoose creates a fascinating story about birds that will delight both serious bird aficionados and casual observers. She astounds me with many surprising facts that I never knew. She accompanies her amazing writing with watercolors that capture birds in all their natural beauty. Julie surprised me with evidence that proved how intelligent many birds can be. I strongly believe that Julie Zickefoose has reached her goal of giving readers a new perspective on birds, and I believe it has transformed the way many think about these wonderful creatures that inhabit our world.

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see"
-Henry David Thoreau

"Never underestimate the power of kindness one small act can make all the difference"
-Aristotle

*"Just beyond the far horizon
Lies a waiting world unknown
Like the dawn its beauty beckons
With a wonder all its own"*
-Unknown

NATURE FACTS

"When Tree Swallow eggs are laid, they are light pink. Then, the eggs turn white after four days." –Joey Tomei

"The Black Skimmer is a bird that is named for the unusual way it catches fish. The Black Skimmer flies just above the water, letting its lower mandible skim the surface. When it feels a fish, its beak snaps closed to catch it." –Aaron Tayal

Do you have a great fact about nature that you would like to share with other OYBC members?
Send your nature fact to katezimmerman@bsbo.org

HOG ISLAND 2013 BY NATHAN MARTINEAU, AGE 16



While at Hog Island, Nathan had a chance encounter with a Prometheus Moth!

Prometheas are in the silk moth family. They have no functional mouth parts, so they are not dangerous at all!

I'm accustomed to watching nestcams from my computer in Lansing, Michigan, and the live feed of Rachel and Steve, a nesting pair of Ospreys located at Hog Island, Maine, is one of the many live cams that I have watched over the past year or so. So I was very excited, once I stepped off the *Snow Goose III* (the boat that ferried me from the mainland onto Hog Island), to be able to see Rachel and Steve in person, flying to and from their nest, bringing food to their two scrawny chicks.

Seeing these celebrities (who have attracted more than 1.5 million viewers over the years) was certainly not the only highlight during my four-and-a-half day stay at Hog Island. The session of teen camp that I attended was one of the most amazing things I've ever experienced, from the people I met to, of course, the birds and animals I saw. Of all of my memories from Hog Island, I have managed to pick out just two of them that really stand out to me as special.

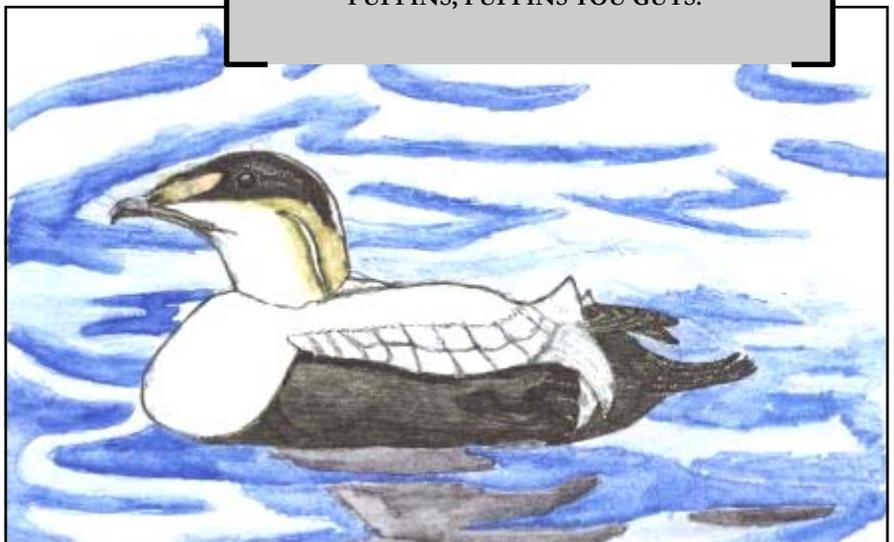
The first of these two happened on Monday morning, the first morning I spent on the island. Scott Weidensaul, one of the world's experts on bird banding and bird migration, had taken us out to do targeted bird banding, where you play the song of a bird in order to lure that particular species into the mist nets. We caught single males of Red-breasted Nuthatch and Black-throated Green Warbler. The warbler was very cooperative, staying very still while the admiring group teens surrounded it with cameras and phones. At one point while Scott was talking to us and had the warbler in his hand, a deerfly flew past and with lightning speed the little bird lunged forward, snapping the insect

out of the air. Instantly it became one of my favorite birding moments, and Scott said he had never seen or heard of it happening before. The bird kept the fly in its bill until it was released, upon which it flew to a branch and downed its catch while all of us watched.

My other favorite moment was while I was on the *Snow Goose III*, within sight of Eastern Egg Rock. I was on the starboard side of the boat, and my friend Rosemary on the other side exclaimed "PUFFINS, PUFFINS YOU GUYS!" and we all ran towards that side of the boat, making the boat lean a little bit with all of our combined weight, all of us trying to get a look at the flock of five puffins. Several seconds later a cursory glance across the water revealed that we were surrounded by dozens of Atlantic Puffins! Later, the captain of the boat and the camp instructors told us that we had gotten super lucky and it was an amazing day for seeing these charismatic birds.

I'll never forget my time at Hog Island, and I strongly encourage the OYBC members who have not attended to try for a scholarship and go next summer. You'll have the experience of a lifetime, making great friends and seeing amazing birds all the while. I promise you'll never forget it.

I was on the starboard side of the boat, and my friend Rosemary on the other side exclaimed "PUFFINS, PUFFINS YOU GUYS!"



Above: A watercolor painting of a male Common Eider by Nathan
Left: A watercolor painting of an Atlantic Puffin

A DAWES MORNING BY JOEY TOMEI, AGE 14

The Central Ohio Chapter members of the Ohio Young Birders Club met on Saturday, April 6th at The Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio to go on a morning bird walk. Members of the Birding FAN (Fun and Nature) Club led the bird walk. Before the bird walk, I heard several bird calls. These included a House Finch, Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals, and Red-Winged Blackbirds. We also spotted a Great Blue Heron flying overhead.

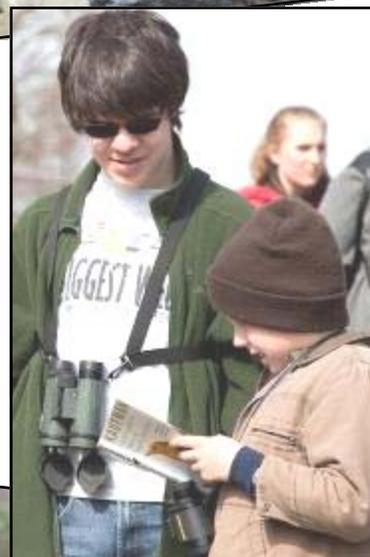
OYBC member points out birds to Gerry and John, who apparently are not quite so skilled in finding them! At 9:30 am, the bird walk began, and we started to spot and hear more birds. I mostly saw American Crows flying above the forest and heard the calls of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The call of the Red-bellied Woodpecker is a new call I learned on the trip, and I also learned the Song Sparrow's call. Later in the walk, we encountered a field with several Eastern Bluebird nest boxes. There was an Eastern Bluebird on one nest box, and there was a pair of Tree Swallows attempting to take over the box. The Tree Swallows dive-bombed the Bluebird, and the Bluebird reacted by flying off the nest box temporarily. I witnessed this several times before we moved on to another area.

At one point in our walk, we stopped in an open area surrounded by coniferous and deciduous trees. A few minutes later, we spotted Turkey Vultures. At first, there were only 3 vultures. Less than a minute later though, there were at least 10 Turkey Vultures. This moment was fascinating to me, and it was definitely one of the highlights of the bird walk.

OYBC members check out a vernal pool near the end of the bird walk, our group walked on a boardwalk through a vernal pond filled with cypress trees. A vernal swamp or pond is an area that is filled with water in the spring, but can be dry during the summer. As we walked, our guide pointed out that salamander eggs were floating in the water. I found this to be interesting because I never had an opportunity to see salamander eggs. After the bird walk ended, we entered the main nature center to eat lunch.

I sat to eat my lunch near a large window that gave a wide field of view of a bird feeder station situated below. We were very pleased to see a Fox Sparrow, which is a type of bird I had never seen before. It is interesting how the bird scratches the ground like a chicken to forage. Also, an Eastern Towhee appeared on the ground below a tree near the feeders.

In conclusion, I believe this bird walk was an entertaining and educational experience. I also got the chance to practice my birding by ear. I am also thankful to the Birding FAN Club for leading this impressive bird walk.



Species List Compiled By Trevor Zook

Cedar Waxwing	House Finch
Turkey Vulture	Carolina Chickadee
Northern Mockingbird	Cooper's Hawk
Great Blue Heron	Mallard
Canada Goose	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch	Tree Swallow
Dark-eyed Junco	Field Sparrow
Northern Cardinal	Red-tailed Hawk
White-breasted Nuthatch	Blue Jay
White-crowned Sparrow	American Tree-Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Downy Woodpecker
American Robin	Golden-crowned Kinglet
European Starling	Tufted Titmouse
Common Grackle	Fox Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird	House Sparrow
"Kite"	Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow	Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Bluebird	American Kestrel
American Crow	Killdeer
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Rock Pigeon
Song Sparrow	

MARCH MADNESS IN MANSFIELD BY TREVOR ZOOK, AGE 14

On March 23, the OYBC crew all met up in a Wendy's parking lot before embarking on an exciting field trip to the Clear Fork Reservoir and the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. When we first got to the reservoir, we saw some Turkey Vultures sunning on a dike. Once we pulled off the road into a parking area, we found a patch of water that wasn't glazed with ice, and spotted some Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Common Goldeneye. We also saw two Belted Kingfishers fly over, as well as a flock of gulls with a few Bonaparte's mixed in.

Later on down the road at picnic area #2, we saw four Blue-winged Teal in a cove. We enjoyed tossing pebbles onto the ice, which attracted many Ring-billed Gulls. Also, we found an Olive-sided Flycatcher. After about ten minutes of it having its back to us, the bird finally turned around and revealed its true identity: a Song Sparrow. Afterwards, we walked through the woods back to a Bald Eagle nest. We saw an Eastern Phoebe, a Ruddy Duck and, of course, Bald Eagles.

We worked our way over to the Ohio Bird Sanctuary and spotted a very interesting bird right away: Lucy the chicken. She followed us around and even let most of us hold her. We took a walk around the sanctuary and looked at some of the amazing birds that had been rehabilitated and now live there permanently. There was also an aviary that we explored, and I tried a very interesting snack as

well. Most people would think that live mealworms would taste disgusting, but I thought they had somewhat of a cheese flavor. There was an old boy scout building that now houses some of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary's warm weather birds during colder months. We got an up-close look at Strix, a Tawny Owl from Europe and Asia. While we had lunch (not worms), Education Coordinator Jan Ferrell talked about the sanctuary's history and upcoming projects.

After lunch we all went for a walk in the woods around the sanctuary, led by some of the Junior Naturalists who volunteer there. We saw many different birds, including some Wood Ducks that we spooked out of a creek and some Turkey Vultures that were eating a deer carcass.

After the nature walk at the sanctuary, we all went back to the reservoir. We quickly realized that all the ice had melted. We eventually found a couple of Horned Grebes with the spotting scope, but not much else. Overall, the OYBC trip to Clear Fork Reservoir and the Ohio Bird Sanctuary was a very successful trip that resulted in a list of 42 species including Common Loon, Field Sparrow, and Hairy Woodpecker.

Species List Compiled By Aaron Tayal

Common Loon	Ring-billed Gull
Horned Grebe	Herring Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Mourning Dove
Great Blue Heron	Belted Kingfisher
Turkey Vulture	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker
Mute Swan	Eastern Phoebe
Wood Duck	Blue Jay
Mallard	American Crow
Blue-winged Teal	Black-capped Chickadee
Greater Scaup	Tufted Titmouse
Lesser Scaup	White-breasted Nuthatch
Bufflehead	American Robin
Common Goldeneye	European Starling
Red-breasted Merganser	Field Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Song Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Northern Cardinal
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Grackle
Killdeer	American Goldfinch
Bonaparte's Gull	House Sparrow

"There is something of the marvelous in all things of nature"
-Aristotle



Below: Black Skimmers by Aaron Tayal



Bottom Right: Eastern Meadowlark by Aaron Tayal



**THANK YOU,
OOS!**

**OOS has
sponsored the
OYBC at the
Red-tailed Hawk
level for 2013**



MAY BIRD-A-THON AT MAGEE MARSH BY AARON TAYAL, AGE 14

The Early Birders recorded 127 species during our 2013 Bird-a-thon day, completely blowing away our original goal of 116 species and roaring past last year's 115 species mark!

It was 9:00 in the morning and we were driving into Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Right away we saw two things: birds and people. Even as we drove in we saw egrets and orioles. Then we saw three giant parking lots filled up with cars. The license plates told us that the birders had come from far and wide to see the "warbler capital of the world."

I found my advisors and fellow OYBC members, and then we headed onto the boardwalk. We had some excellent guides to help us, including Chris Wood & Jessie Berry (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), Victor Emanuel (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours), Rob Ripma (Indiana Young Birders Club), Ryan Steiner (BSBO Education & Research Intern), and Wyatt Miller (BSBO Intern).

Right away, we were adding check marks to our bird list. I got great views of a Nashville Warbler, a Black-and-white Warbler, an Ovenbird, and a Northern Waterthrush. Warbling Vireos were all around us. I learned the song of a Black-throated Blue Warbler. We had to thread our way through the hundreds and hundreds of people. If a crowd gathered in one place, then someone had probably spotted an uncommon bird like a Mourning Warbler. Finally we got to the other side of the boardwalk. This was the best part of the trip, in my opinion. At any one moment in time, our group could see four different species of warblers. In a tree beside the parking lot we saw a Common Nighthawk.

Then we ate lunch on the beach, which turned out to be a very aromatic experience. The smell of rotten fish was, in a word, disgusting. I had fun skipping rocks into the lake.

After lunch, when I was walking across a parking lot, I saw a taped-off stretch of grass. Someone near me said there was an American Woodcock nest. Where was the nest? I looked and looked again, but I saw nothing. Then I saw the blink of an eye! The female woodcock was sitting perfectly still on top of the nest. She was basically invisible in the tall grass.

We decided to walk the same trail where we saw a Kirtland's Warbler last year, in hopes of the same good luck. We didn't see a Kirtland's, but I saw a Cape May Warbler and a Canada Warbler. We also saw Common Terns, Bonaparte's Gulls, and a Scarlet Tanager. On our way back, someone spotted a small raptor flying past. It was so small that it looked like a pigeon to me. We recognized it as a Sharp-shinned Hawk, because its tail was squared at the end.



It was nearing the end of the day. OYBC had already beaten last year's bird count. We drove by Ottawa Wildlife Refuge and Metzger Marsh to spot a few more birds. We saw Lesser Scaup and learned that these birds have squarer heads than their Greater Scaup relatives.

Our bird count was 127! Our fundraising efforts were going to pay off. The money that we collected for the Bird-a-thon would benefit Columbus Audubon. Some of this money would be used to fund more great OYBC trips! I said goodbye to my friends, and I looked forward to the next trip to Magee.



American Woodcock on nest at Magee Marsh. Photo by Elijah Martineau.

Species List Compiled By Joey Tomei

[list includes a few non-avian "species" at the end]

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Merlin | House Wren |
| Marsh Wren | Winter Wren |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher |
| Lesser Scaup | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Snowy Egret | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| American Kestrel | Eastern Bluebird |
| House Sparrow | Veery |
| Canada Goose | Swainson's Thrush |
| Mute Swan | Wood Thrush |
| Trumpeter Swan | American Robin |
| Wood Duck | Gray Catbird |
| Gadwall | Northern Mockingbird |
| Mallard | Brown Thrasher |
| Blue-winged Teal | European Starling |
| Hooded Merganser | Ovenbird |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Northern Waterthrush |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Black-and-white Warbler |
| Great Blue Heron | Prothonotary Warbler |
| Great Egret | Tennessee Warbler |
| Green Heron | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| Turkey Vulture | Nashville Warbler |
| Osprey | Common Yellowthroat |
| Bald Eagle | American Redstart |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Cape May Warbler |
| Cooper's Hawk | Northern Parula |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Magnolia Warbler |
| American Coot | Bay-breasted Warbler |
| Sandhill Crane | Blackburnian Warbler |
| Killdeer | Yellow Warbler |
| Greater Yellowlegs | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| American Woodcock | Blackpoll Warbler |
| Bonaparte's Gull | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| Ring-billed Gull | Palm Warbler |
| Herring Gull | Pine Warbler |
| Common Tern | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Forster's Tern | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Rock Pigeon | Canada Warbler |
| Mourning Dove | Wilson's Warbler |
| Great Horned Owl | Eastern Towhee |
| Common Nighthawk | Chipping Sparrow |
| Chimney Swift | Field Sparrow |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Song Sparrow |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | Lincoln's Sparrow |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | Swamp Sparrow |
| Downy Woodpecker | White-throated Sparrow |
| Hairy Woodpecker | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Northern Flicker | Scarlet Tanager |
| Pileated Woodpecker | Northern Cardinal |
| Least Flycatcher | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Eastern Phoebe | Indigo Bunting |
| Great-Crested Flycatcher | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Eastern Kingbird | Eastern Meadowlark |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | Common Grackle |
| Blue-headed Vireo | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Warbling Vireo | Orchard Oriole |
| Red-eyed Vireo | Baltimore Oriole |
| Blue Jay | Purple Finch |
| American Crow | House Finch |
| Purple Martin | Pine Siskin |
| Tree Swallow | American Goldfinch |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | |
| Bank Swallow | <i>Non-avian flying sightings included:</i> |
| Barn Swallow | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | |
| Tufted Titmouse | One helicopter |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | Several Cessna 172s |
| Carolina Wren | One Douglas Cargo Plane |

Hidden Poetry: The Grey Catbird

A garbled song at dusk. A sneezy mew in the shady forest. A flick of the tail in dense undergrowth. You move forward, passing these seemingly insignificant instances in search of something brighter and sweeter. Little do you realize, who you are leaving behind is perhaps the most remarkable of all.

Understated yet enigmatic, the Grey Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) is a soft smoky grey with ash-colored tail and cap, deep brown eyes, and rich rusty chestnut undertail coverts. Growing up to 9.4 inches in length, they are medium-sized songbirds—but don't let their size fool you. The Catbird's quirky nature and endearing notes make for quite an interesting neighbor. Having adapted beautifully to the expanding urban environment, they make their nests in gardens and yards from the northwest to the southeast United States, and the southwestern portion of Canada. Human development, while extremely harmful to some species, has instead created habitat for Catbirds, who like tangled undergrowth and dense shrubs. Deforestation can cause patches of scrubby regrowth, perfect for Catbirds. They can be found foraging for insects and berries near disturbed roadsides, fence lines, and the edges of clearings. While most songbirds eat a diet heavy in insects, the Catbird eats many more berries when the fruit is ripe and so has a wider range of food to choose from. (This can be exasperating for bird banders, however, for when a Catbird relieves himself, as they frequently do when being handled, the product is a deep purple color that stains clothing!) On their wintering grounds on the Gulf Coast and central-to-south America, they eat almost nothing but fruits.

The adaptability of the Catbird is also apparent in their nesting strategy, which is to build multiple nests a season to ensure survival of their children. Their well-hidden nests lie deep in thickets where predators like cats and snakes cannot find them. (Please keep your cats *indoors* to reduce the risk to birds of all species!)

Catbirds also confuse humans who would like to find them, for these birds are in the family Mimidae, which includes mockingbirds and thrashers—birds notorious for their ability to mimic other species' sounds. Often heard but unseen, Catbirds produce individual variations on a jumbled, gargling song full of both buzzy and sweet notes. Their general species tune is interrupted by hundreds of mimicked phrases of other birds, frogs, and

machinery. Unlike mockingbirds, however, Catbirds mimic in short bursts and the borrowed phrases are intertwined with the Catbird's general song and sometimes cannot be completely distinguished from the rest of the song.

Why mimic, though? What purpose would copying other species' voices serve? The answer is astounding: In order to survive, a male Catbird must find enough food, avoid predators, find a

mate, establish and defend his territory, and migrate twice a year. This takes an astonishing amount of energy, and so many birds do not live very long. To deviate from any of these tasks could result in a loss of energy and could be fatal. However, successful males have energy to spare, for their territory is established and they are finding enough sustenance. This is when they listen. This is when they learn.

The more successful a Catbird is, the more time he has to spend listening to and learning other sounds, which he then incorporates into his own breeding song. This is an auditory signal to potential mates that he is a good suitor: successful and smart. Interestingly, if he has traveled around and learned birdsong from other regions outside of his current territory, it will be reflected in his song and therefore shows the females that he is experienced.

The Catbird sings before dawn and at dusk, their rich and melancholy voices greeting the day and then putting it to sleep. Their tentative mews uttered softly from hidden perches offer a sweet, questioning companion to the lonely hiker.

In their plush grey feathers, with muted tones of buff and taupe, and their large dark eyes, with glinting slivers of burnt umber in the iris, there is poetry. They stay hidden until it is time to be seen, until they are confident enough in their observer. When binoculars meet the gaze of a thin grey being barely visible in the brush, there is something about even the quickest of glances that stirs the heart. Abundant the Grey Catbird may be, but to really see one, and to have them see you, is an experience few and far in between.



Above: All Grey Catbird photos by Kristina Polk.

Right: Kristina Polk holding a Grey Catbird while volunteering at a bird banding research station.



OYBC CENTRAL CHAPTER T-SHIRT DESIGN PROJECT

Check out the AWESOME t-shirts that the OYBC Central Chapter designed!

Many proudly wore their new t-shirt on International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) while at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (NW Ohio) during the Biggest Week In American Birding.

Several students submitted sketches, paintings, or photos that got voted on for the final t-shirt design. Here are a few of those ideas along with a brief description of their design process or motivation:

STEPHEN BISCHOFF

"The thing that got me into Photography was using my point and shoot camera as I was growing up. Another thing that set the hook was when I won 1st place in the Trinity River Audubon Center photo Contest and got to meet Sean Fitzgerald, a nature photographer.

As I started I wasn't as interested as I am now because now I can see how happy it makes people to see the pictures I have taken."



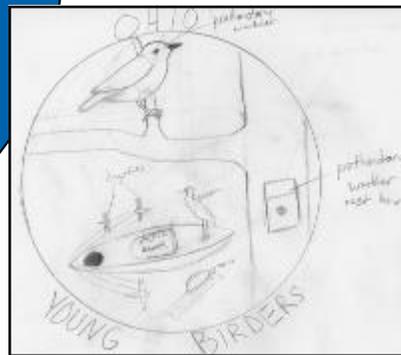
MACKENZIE SMITLEY

"I enjoy drawing in charcoal. I will research different pictures on the Internet or in books and select pictures I like or I find challenging and spend time drawing from eye and developing my skills."

ELIJAH MARTINEAU

"My favorite field trip of the year last year was the *Birding by Kayak*.

So, I wanted to represent it in my t-shirt design. I like birds because they are so interesting and fun to watch. I also like to take photographs of the birds I see."



Front of T-shirt

FINAL T-SHIRT DESIGN !



Back of T-shirt

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 the BSBO at 419-898-4070.

OYBC Statewide Annual BIG SIT For Conservation Sunday, October 13th

Location: Meadowbrook Marsh (Marblehead, OH)

Help support the Ohio Young Birders Club by participating in the annual Big Sit for Conservation. Like a walkathon, people can donate to the OYBC by pledging an amount for every species seen during the event. The catch with a Big Sit is *we stay in the same place all day long*. This year's Big Sit will take place at Meadowbrook Marsh.

BIG SIT pledge form in this newsletter!

7th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference Saturday, November 2nd 8 AM—5 PM

Location: Toledo Zoo (Toledo, OH)

Registration Deadline: October 30th

The revolutionary OYBC Conference provides a unique opportunity for student members to address an audience of their peers with professional presentations on birding and/or conservation topics of their choosing. In addition to the student presentations, the OYB Annual Conference includes an optional behind the scenes tour of the Toledo Zoo Aviary, nest box building service project, fabulous raffle prizes, lunch, and a bird quiz led by noted author Kenn Kaufman with assistance from OYBC members. This is an event for the whole family! The *Fledgling Corner* will be available for young kids to take a break and stretch their legs from the conference and enjoy bird arts & craft activities.

This year's keynote speaker is Aspen Ellis (Ann Arbor, MI). She will present *Three Months, Three Showers, and Countless Data Sheets: A Summer in Field Research*.

Student Rate \$10 / Adult Rate \$20

You do not have to be a member to attend and adults are encouraged to attend too!

Conference registration form in this newsletter!



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.

Young Birders' Day at Midwest Birding Symposium

Saturday, September 21st, started out as a chilly, rainy, and overcast morning in Lakeside, Ohio. It was the Young Birders' Day at the Midwest Birding Symposium (MBS). Jennie Duberstein (ABA Young Birders) did a fantastic job coordinating the events for the Young Birders' Day. We had three OYBC superstar student leaders/presenters: Nathan Martineau, Doug Whitman, and Ethan Rising. All three boys did an outstanding job!

The weather cleared up just as we started our morning bird walk. It turned out that the weather front that brought the chilly temperatures and rain also pushed lots of migrant birds to the area. We had an awesome bird list by the end of our morning walk. After lunch, Nathan presented on the American Crow and their winter roosts, and then Doug spoke about the OYBC Service Projects and their benefits to birds and people. Michael O'Brien (author of *The Shorebird Guide*) led an afternoon field sketching workshop for the young birders. During an exercise, everyone was focused on a Blackpoll Warbler (they were everywhere!) when suddenly Nathan Martineau and Louise Zemaitis spotted a Golden-winged Warbler about 20 feet in front of our group! The Golden-winged Warbler hung around just long enough for our group to get phenomenal looks! Word quickly got out to the adult participants of MBS and many made their way over to our group and were asking the young birders where the Golden-winged Warbler was seen.

Our OYBC group got some more birding, specifically shorebirds, in before dinner. It was a great day of birding and all around just having fun with other young birders from around the state.



THE OYBC SHOUT OUT PAGE

WELCOME TO ALL OF THE NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS

as of September 26, 2013

STUDENT MEMBERS

Noah Bahls
Aaron Daniels
Anna Treadway
Olivia Urbina
Emily Winnicki
Aden Yoder, Jr.
Samantha Daniels
Savannah Carter
Winie Barchick-Suter
Frannie Mamlin
Josh King
Matt Kappler
Delaney Hayes
Chase Thompson

ADULT SUPPORTERS

Leslie Cisneros
Suzanne Tayal
J. Treadway
Aden Yoder

THANK YOU
to Ohio Division of
Wildlife for their
membership support!

**Encourage your friends
to become OYBC
members & family
to support
this great club!**

Thank you to all of our OYBC SPONSORS!

Canton Audubon Society

Association of Ohio

Garden Clubs

Columbus Audubon

Kaufman Field Guides

Kirtland Bird Club

Ohio Ornithological Society

We would like to see your name here!

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

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

For more information on sponsoring
the OYBC, see Page 3 of this issue of
GOLDEN-WINGS, or call BSBO at
(419) 898-4070.

**Remember to
submit materials for the next
GOLDEN-WINGS
Newsletter!**

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!

**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

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!



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Time to renew
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Ohio Young Birders Club New or Renewal Membership

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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