



# OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2013-2014

Encouraging, Educating, & Empowering our Youth Conservation Leaders

"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



We had a successful 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference at the Toledo Zoo full of amazing presentations, awesome zoo tours, cool poster presentations, and fun activities! A great big thank you to some of our key sponsors: Toledo Zoo, Vanguard Optics, Ohio Ornithological Society, Kaufman Field Guides, Scott Arvin, and Eagle Optics! Also, a special shout out and thank you to our BSBO Education Team volunteers, Tiffanie Hayes, Kimberley McRitchie, Kelli Rule, and Cindy Rowe!  
Check out the full story by Elijah Martineau on page 12.

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

#### Coordinators

Kim Kaufman, BSBO  
Kate Zimmerman, BSBO  
Susan Setterlin, OYBC Central  
Darlene Sillick, OYBC Central  
Tim Daniel, OYBC Central  
Nina Harfmann, OYBC Central  
Brian Herriott, OYBC SW  
Bill Creasey, OYBC SW  
Robin Parker, OYBC NW  
Patty Toneff, OYBC NW  
Bev Walborn, OYBC NE

#### Youth Advisory Panel

Clare Jusdanis  
Jacob Stinnett  
Doug Whitman  
Trevor Zook  
Chloe Degitz

The OYBC was founded in 2006  
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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Visit us at  
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www.bsbobird.org

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facebook.com/ohioyoungbirders



Follow us on Twitter  
twitter.com/ohioyoungbirders



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)**

### 2014 YOUNG BIRDER SUMMER CAMPS

#### ABA Young Birder Camps

##### Camp Avocet

The Virden Center-Lewes, DE  
August 10-16, 2014

##### Camp Colorado

YMCA of the Rockies-Estes Park, CO  
July 8 - 14, 2014

For ages 13-18 only.

#### Audubon Young Birder Camps

##### Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens

Hog Island, Maine

June 15-20, 2014

June 22-27, 2014

For ages 14-17 only.

#### Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)

Camp Chiricahua: Jul 30—Aug 10, 2014

For boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18 to become familiar with the flora and fauna of Southeast Arizona.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Check out [www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org) for more details

### OYBC Scholarships Available

#### John F. Gallagher Memorial Scholarship Fund

This scholarship fund helps students broaden their knowledge of birds and bird conservation and expand their field experiences through conferences, camps, and workshops. 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 <http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/ABOUTOYBC/SCHOLARSHIPS.aspx>  
for an application form,  
or call BSBO at 419-898-4070 and we will mail you a form.

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



## We are very happy to announce the creation of the OYBC Northeast Chapter!



We are super excited to work with a new partner to expand the Ohio Young Birders Club across the state! Looking forward to working with Cleveland Metroparks and kicking-off the NE Ohio Chapter of the OYBC!

If you are interested in finding out more information about this chapter, please check out [www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org) or contact either:

Kate Zimmerman ([katezimmerman@bsbo.org](mailto:katezimmerman@bsbo.org))  
Bev Walborn ([bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com))

## How are your Bird ID skills?

Check out the monthly OYBC website Bird ID Quiz!

Each month we'll share a bird photo and offer some informational clues about the bird and its habitat. If you're up to the challenge, follow the instructions on our website and you could be eligible to win a pretty cool prize from Kaufman Field Guides!

*\* Must be an OYBC member to be eligible to win a prize*

[www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)

## 2014 JANUARY QUIZ: GULLS GALORE!



## Past OYBC Monthly Bird I.D. Quiz Answers & Winners

### September 2013: "Confusing Fall Warblers"

Correct Answer:

- A) Black-throated Green Warbler
- B) Blackpoll Warbler
- C) Chestnut-sided Warbler

Correct Entries: Elijah Martineau  
Winner: Elijah Martineau

### October 2013: "Raptors Galore"

Correct Answer:

- 1) Sharp-shinned Hawk
- 2) Cooper's Hawk

Correct Entries: none  
Winner: No winner

### November 2013: "Oodles of Owls"

Correct Answers:

- 1) Eastern Screech Owl
- 2) Barred Owl
- 3) Burrowing Owl
- 4) Great Horned Owl

Correct Entries:  
Joey Tomei & Josh King  
Winner: Joey Tomei

### December 2013: "A Myriad of Divers"

Correct Answers:

- Redhead
- Lesser Scaup
- Canvasback

Correct Entries:  
Jaden King & Nicholas Rosner  
Winner: Nicholas Rosner

## GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Alex Murray  
Ethan Rising  
Joey Tomei  
Nathan Martineau  
May Martineau  
Elijah Martineau  
Matt Kappler  
Delaney Hayes  
Sarah Winnicki

**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 March 31, 2014**

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**Cover Photo:**  
Group photo of the 2013 OYBC Conference attendees by Laura Stiefel.

# YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE: ALEX MURRAY, AGE 18

**GOLDEN-WINGS (GW)** – What got you interested in birds, and in what year did you start birding?

**Alex Murray (AM)** - I took a short, two-week bird watching course that my school offered as an outside-the-classroom learning experience.

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

**AM** - My choir teacher at Central Christian School helped spark my interest in birds. He is very passionate about music and bird watching.

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

**AM** - It would be hard for me to say I have a favorite bird because of their diversity. Each species has their own niche, size, colors, and personality traits which makes them unique to other bird species. However, I do find myself particularly fond of North America's accipiters (Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk).

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

**AM** - My favorite place to bird is at the Stark County Wilderness Center. During the summer they host uncommon nesters for Northeast Ohio such as Hooded Warblers, White-eyed Vireos, and Cerulean Warblers.

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

**AM** - I am also interested in fishery management and environmental law enforcement (such as game warden). As other nature hobbies I like looking at butterflies, studying trees, fishing, camping, and hiking.

**GW** – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

**AM** - I enjoy running, fishing, biking, mushroom hunting, puns, weight lifting, skiing, hiking, canoeing, wood splitting, humor, reading, and any sort of adventure that gets me out of the house.

**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?

**AM** - Most people my age think birding is a strange hobby but are impressed by all the different birds I can name. I think we can get more people interested in birds by introducing more classes like the one I was offered in other schools.

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

**AM**- I think OYBC is doing a wonderful job of getting young people interested in nature. I don't hide the fact that I'm a birder from friends at school and would encourage others to do the same. You never know who you might inspire!

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

**AM** - I have taken birding trips to Colorado and to Michigan's Upper Peninsula (I saw the Kirtland's Warbler on its nesting grounds on that trip). I've also been birding in other states such as Arizona, Florida, Alabama and Pennsylvania even though they weren't officially "birding trips".

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

**AM** - I am also a member of the Stark County Wilderness Center.

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

**AM** - I plan on attending Hocking College to get an associate's degree in environmental sciences. After that I plan on getting a bachelor's degree but I'm not yet sure of where I want to go for that.

**GW** - What is your dream job?

**AM** - I think my dream job would be to lead bird tours.

**GW** – What is your favorite book, and what makes it your favorite?

**AM** - It may have nothing to do with birding but my favorite book is *White Fang* by Jack London. In his book London illustrates how love overcomes hate when a kind man gives a wolf that's been pitted against other dogs for entertainment a second chance.

**GW** - What are your favorite web sites?

**AM** - [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org) and [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

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

**AM** - I took a birding class that my school offered as a two-week course. I could probably also count the wonderful learning experiences that OYBC offers as well as some of Mr. Kenn Kaufman's lectures.

**GW** - Are you involved with any birding projects?

**AM** - I am involved in the Wooster Christmas Bird Count circle.

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

**AM** - I do keep a life list which currently has 255 species/distinctive populations (I say distinctive because I keep records of distinct subspecies such as Oregon Junco, and races such as dark morph Rough-legged Hawk). However, I would encourage people to watch birds rather than scurry around looking for numbers.

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

**AM** - Being a member the OYBC has changed birding for me because I feel more connected with the birding community now that I am a part of the network of bird watching organizations.



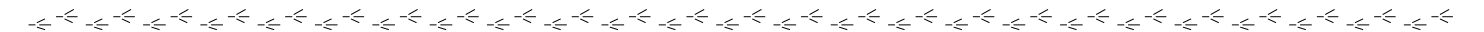
*Interested in contributing artwork or being interviewed by  
GOLDEN-WINGS?  
Contact the Ohio Young Birders Club at  
[info@ohioyoungbirders.org](mailto:info@ohioyoungbirders.org)*



Golden-crowned Kinglet shown here. Photos courtesy of Black Swamp Bird Observatory.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet shown here. Photos courtesy of Black Swamp Bird Observatory.



↘ **Golden-crowned Kinglet**  
↘ *Regulus satrapa*

↘ **Length:** 3.5-4 inches

↘ **Wingspan:** 5.5—7 inches

↘ **Weight:** 4-8 grams (0.1-0.3 oz)

↘ **Range:** Breeds Canada, Rocky and Appalachian Mountains, northern states including southern Alaska. Winters in South Dakota to Texas, to east coast (Maine to Florida).

↘ The Golden-crowned Kinglet is a small passerine that nests on conifer branches 30-60 feet above the ground. It lays 5-11 eggs and incubates for 14-15 days. The Golden-crowned Kinglet prefers coniferous forests, but also can live in deciduous and mixed forests. Its song is a series of "tsee" notes, usually followed by a trill. Its call note is a repetitive "tsee". Its diet consists of insects, and insect eggs, and in winter it eats seeds. I have also seen them eat juniper berries quite recently. It often forages with other groups of birds, i.e. chickadees, titmice, and other kinglets, and it flicks its wings to flush its prey. The Golden-crowned Kinglet's patterning is fascinating. It has a white wing bar that bends and trails down the wing, and its primaries and secondaries (feathers on the outside of the wing) have a gold edge to them. Their face has a black malar stripe and a white eyebrow. The males have a black cap with beautiful orange bordered with yellow. The females have a black cap with yellow on the inside. It is overall an olive color.

↘ **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
↘ *Regulus calendula*

↘ **Length:** 3.5—4.3 inches

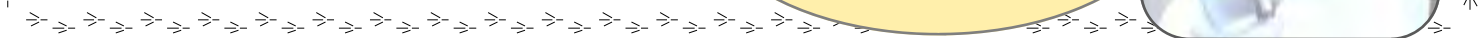
↘ **Wingspan:** 6.3—7.1 inches

**Weight:** 5– 10 grams (0.2—0.4 oz)

**Range:** Breeds Canada, up to northern Alaska, Rocky Mountains, winters in New Mexico to Florida, north to Ohio and Appalachians to Maine.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is a tiny bird in the genus *Regulus* along with the Golden-crowned Kinglet. It makes a similar nest to an oriole; suspended from a branch, just more concealed. The female lays five to eleven eggs, and she incubates from 12-14 days. It does not prefer a certain forest type, but normally forages with a flock. Its song goes like this: "tsee tsee tsee, tew tew, bubbly bubbly bubbly". Its call note is a repetitive "cack-cack-cack". It readily eats insects by gleaning bark and foliage. In the winter, it eats nuts and berries. It is a dark olive color, with white wing bars. It has a white eye ring, which helps with identification in spring with all the migrating warblers.

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."  
-Frank Lloyd Wright



# GOT OWLS? BY MATT KAPPLER, AGE 14

Winter time is here and sadly there is no stopping that, but on the bright side this season change opens up for a whole new range of winter species for birders! There is one species though, that has made a special appearance and has got all birders heads turned 180°! It's the well-known Harry Potter bird, the Snowy Owl.

The Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) will often show up in Ohio for winter, but 2013 has started out to be a great year for sightings. These irruptions often termed "big flights" are generally seen every four years. The last large influx of Snowys was the winter of 2011-2012. Usually there are two causes for an irruption like this; the birds' food supply in the tundra crashes, or they have very successful hatches with lots of new birds. Luckily this year, experts believe it was a good nesting year, particularly in the Eastern Arctic, as many of the sightings have been centered on the Eastern US. Adult Snowy Owls are a snowy white, while the younger birds have black lines on them. As they grow the dark feathers turn white. Snowy owls are usually seen on the ground or perched on rocks. Since there aren't any trees in the tundra, Snowy Owls are not used to them, and generally won't perch in trees. During their stay in the US, they will feed on gulls, ducks, rats, mice, and rabbits.

After the large irruption in the Cleveland area (10 sightings as of mid-December 2013), WKYC-3 did a news story. I contacted videographer Carl "Big Daddy" Bachtel, who observed and also wrote a story on the Snowy Owls for the station. Carl shared with me much information and told me that if you are interested in viewing these beautiful birds, be sure to view them from a distance because they are often the younger birds and are very stressed as well as tired from travelling long distances. These magnificent birds need their space so they can rest and feed. Once it begins to warm up in the spring, these birds will return north to begin the cycle all over again. We welcome them to our area!

***"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see"***

***-Henry David Thoreau***

*"Take a beginner birding. You never know when you could be making someone's day, nurturing the beginnings of a fulfilling hobby, fostering a budding conservationist, or even encouraging an eventual career."*  
~ Sarah Winnicki, former OYBC student member



Matt Kappler Photography  
12/22/13



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](mailto:katezimmerman@bsbo.org)



**“Every OYBC member on this trip added at least one bird to their life list!”**

On October 27th, the Central Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club went to Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park for a bird watching tour. We met at the nature center in the park and visited its indoor exhibits before heading out on the trails. There was an indoor stream that contained fish of various sizes and a turtle. There was also a display of raptors that are found in Ohio. Once we left the nature center, Paul Hurtado, a local expert birder and an OSU post-doc student, led us to several excellent bird watching spots in the metro park. We were also joined by Celeste Baumgartner of the OSU Ornithology Club.

We started bird watching in the parking lot near the nature center. There were a large number of birds in the surrounding vegetation. In the bushes, there were Song Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows. There were Eastern Bluebirds near the grass, a considerable number of Mourning Doves in the trees, and there was a flock of American Crows flying overhead.

Next, our group walked to the Teal Trail Loop in the Wet Prairie Trails area to look for American sparrows. We spotted Song Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, and Swamp Sparrows in the grass surrounding the trail. In addition to sparrows, there were American Coots in a small body of water, two Northern Harriers, a Ring-necked Pheasant, and a Marsh Wren. The Ring-necked Pheasant flew suddenly out of the grass, which startled one person in our group. We headed back to the nature center once we finished walking along the trail. Our group saw many European Starlings, American Goldfinches, and a Red-shouldered Hawk on the way back.

At the nature center, we had lunch and listened to a presentation about eBird, made by Paul Hurtado. He showed the various uses and features of the eBird website, and

he showed how bird observations for an area could be submitted to the website by registered users for scientists and bird watchers to view. After his presentation, we left the nature center to look at the nearby Bison, and we also saw one Sharp-shinned Hawk.

We then rode in cars to the Prairie Oaks Metro Park to do more bird watching. Paul Hurtado again showed us spots to see birds. He told us that we would need to create multiple eBird checklists because the park is in two counties. Our group started bird watching in the Darby Bend

Lakes area, which was an area near a small lake and a parking lot. We spotted two Canada Geese and a Northern Flicker.

Shortly after, we started walking along a trail in the park, and we got to see a wide range of birds. The most notable birds we saw along the trail were Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, and a White-throated Sparrow. There were also three Brown-headed Cowbirds that interested me. Our group returned to the parking lot after we were done walking on the trail, and there were many Killdeer in the vicinity. This is where our bird trip concluded.

In conclusion, this bird watching trip was a unique experience. I had the opportunity to see new species of birds, which include the Swamp Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Marsh Wren. Every OYBC member on this trip added at least one bird to their life list! This trip also improved my identification skills of American sparrows. I want to thank Paul Hurtado for leading this highly informative bird trip and for helping our group identify the birds.



# BIRDING BY KAYAK BY MAY & NATHAN MARTINEAU

## Birding by Kayak: Part One by May Martineau

It was a little colder than it was the year before on the kayak trip. But it's warm enough for short sleeves. I'm on the short trip and my goal for this trip is to see a Prothonotary Warbler. Last time I saw one flitting around in a tree; this time I really want to see one up close.

While I wait in the water I get accustomed to my kayak. When everybody is in the water finally, we head downstream towards the lake. Along the way I see a Great Blue Heron and a Double-crested Cormorant, but not much else. But then we reach the bridge where the Cliff Swallows nest. I start seeing a lot of catbirds, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, American Goldfinches, and Song Sparrows to name a few. After this we find an outlet from the lake. We go down it some way and find a mother Mallard and her four babies, and about fifteen feet away from her is a Green Heron fishing. He did end up flying away before most of the group had seen him, but only to the other side of the lake.

We then find a large tree across the stream and we have to turn around. I continue around the circumference of the lake, and I find directly in front of me a gorgeous male Prothonotary Warbler. He was so yellow he was almost orange on his breast.

As we go on the list gets longer: Cedar Waxwings bathing and more warblers. Then a nest is spotted, but we don't know what it is. Directly above that is a kingbird nest. After this I keep going around the lake, but not for long. It's time to go. We head back the way we came. I'm sad we have to leave, but on the bright side, I achieved my goal!

*Editor's note: some of the OYBC gang launched their kayaks farther upriver, so they had a longer paddle, much of it on the open water rather than the coves near the TAASC launch point.*





# MY 208<sup>TH</sup> LIFE BIRD BY DELANEY HAYES, AGE 11

Last weekend, a rare Harris's Sparrow was spotted visiting a friend's bird feeders just outside of Oak Harbor, Ohio where I live. The Harris's Sparrow normally spends it's winters in the southern Great Plains, but for some reason, this bird decided to visit NW Ohio! We could not let this opportunity to see a rare bird pass us by.

My parents and I were given permission to visit our friend's property and see if we could spot this rare bird. We met up with some members of the Birding Ohio facebook group and within just a few minutes, the sparrow popped out of a nearby pine tree and landed in our friend's hanging tray feeder. Even though it was very cold outside, we were able to get some great looks at the bird and I even took a few photos!

In the photo below, you can see it's pink beak and what we decided looks like a "black necktie." If we were ever to see one of these birds again, those two field marks will definitely help us ID this bird.

Once we returned home, my mom and I got our field guides out and we read about this bird. I was very happy that my 208<sup>th</sup> life bird was this rare Harris's Sparrow and we are very thankful that our friends gave us permission to visit their house and see this awesome bird!



Above: Harris's Sparrow  
Right: Photo of (L-R) male House Finch, female House Finch, Harris's Sparrow, & Dark-eyed Junco. Photos by Tiffanie & Delaney Hayes.



## ...BIRDING BY KAYAK BY MAY & NATHAN MARTINEAU CONTINUED...

### Birding by Kayak: Part Two by Nathan Martineau

The OYBCers who chose to take the challenge of the longer kayak trip had a completely different experience than those who went on the other trip. Although there was less time for birding, the paddling was highlighted by a Great Blue Heron or Double-crested Cormorant every hundred yards or so.

The overgrown riverbank, punctuated occasionally by an impossibly big house, held Gray Catbirds, Song Sparrows, and Eastern Wood Pewees, while the treetops were inhabited by Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Red-eyed, Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos, Baltimore Orioles, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

Everyone loved the colonies of Cliff Swallows. With their stout stature, striking white foreheads, and amusing antics, the swallows were undoubtedly the highlight of many peoples' experience on the river that day.

*Editor's note: After lunch we got to help check & band Tree Swallow nestlings with Darlene Sillick; Several volunteers from the Ohio Wildlife Center were present and gave a presentation on wildlife rehabilitation.*



*"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song"*

*~ Maya Angelou*



*“There is something of the marvelous in all things of nature”*  
-Aristotle



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

# THE WINTER KINGLET BY NATHAN MARTINEAU, AGE 17

Originally published on Nathan's blog, *The Crows Roost*.

Although it is over two weeks into the month of December, only now may one finally say that winter has truly arrived. Today is December 15, 2013, and up until now it's either been really cold and not snowing, or just below freezing and snowing. The immense snow storm that rolled in from the Southwest a few days ago marked the first time this season that snow coincided with decidedly colder temperatures. As I walk under a dense stand of pine trees at Fenner Nature Center, I am awed by the beauty of the untouched blanket of white powder that covers every available surface, from the ground I tread on to the tops of the trees. I can't help but think how lucky I am to live in a place where I can be part of scenes such as this.

Suddenly, a chorus of barely audible, high-pitched trills off to my right sets my thoughts on another, altogether more marvelous course. How can these treble voices be part of this winter landscape, covered in seven inches of snow and nightly reaching subzero temperatures? The Golden-crowned Kinglet, to whom these sounds belong, is nothing short of an avian miracle. These diminutive birds, whose average body size is barely bigger than the top half of your thumb, somehow manage to find enough food in temperatures as low as -40° to sustain their exceedingly hyperactive lifestyle, day after day after day.

They survive each day against a set of overwhelming odds that works constantly against them, for a body that small, unaided, in the middle of winter, would die in a matter of not minutes but seconds at such cold temperatures. Their metabolism is so high that they must eat more than their body weight in food every day. And that's assuming that their diet is as rich in protein as it is during the rest of the year. Surely that is impossible given the lack of insect life in the middle of winter. And what of the nights? How would such a tiny creature stay warm without constant sustenance through the long hours of a cold winter's night?

Their secret to survival lies in the tiny "inchworm" caterpillars of Noctuid moths—mostly those of the One-spotted Variant (*Hypagyrtis unipunctata*). They lay perfectly camouflaged against the twigs and branches of maple and birch trees all winter long, no matter how low the temperature drops. The caterpillars themselves are truly phenomenal. Just before their host trees shed their leaves, they stop feeding and, with a few strands of silk, loosely fasten themselves to the outer tip of a branch. Now their bodies go through a chemical change that saturates their body fluids with high concentrations of glucose sugar, to be used as a type of antifreeze in the winter months. After a number of weeks, the substance has permeated each caterpillar's every cell. Packed with antifreeze, they are now equipped to survive even the coldest temperatures that the coming winter has to offer. The very same glucose that allows a caterpillar to survive the winter simultaneously provides an energy-packed meal for a kinglet. Thus, the kinglets' "hyperactive" behavior of hovering or hanging at the ends of branches, picking off seemingly invisible prey.

Another common winter feeding behavior coincides with the range of the Sack-bearer Moths (Family Mimallonidae). In August, the larvae of Sack-bearer moths construct open-ended sacks of silk and leaves where they will overwinter and pupate in the spring. They also ensure that their shelters will not fall off of the tree with the rest of the leaves by enforcing the leaf stems with countless strands of silk. In the

winter, flocks of chickadees and kinglets take advantage of this by locating these surprisingly inconspicuous clumps of leaves and poking their heads inside to make a meal of the luckless caterpillars.

After a day of foraging, the members of each small flock find their way back to the dense conifer whose interior they have been roosting in at night since the first night that the temperature dipped below freezing. Once there, they may settle down close to the trunk of their tree and cuddle close together to form a fluffy ball of feathers. (One morning last winter, I was lucky enough to find one of these clusters roosting in the pine tree in my own backyard!) More often, perhaps, the flock returns to settle into a carefully constructed, globular, down-lined nest. Constructed by the flock during mid to late October, this structure is used solely as a roosting shelter on long winter nights. This apparently gives the Golden-crowned Kinglet the distinction of being the only North American bird to deliberately construct a nest for purposes other than incubating and raising young.

So, next time you see a Golden-crowned Kinglet on a cold winter's day, perhaps you can stop to ponder the miracle of the winter kinglet. Think of the staggering odds that the bird has beaten each and every day that the temperature has dipped below zero. Remember that you are witness to an incredibly unlikely scene: a tiny bird flitting about in lively manner in a frigid, hostile environment.

For an excellent read and more information on nature's ingenious winter

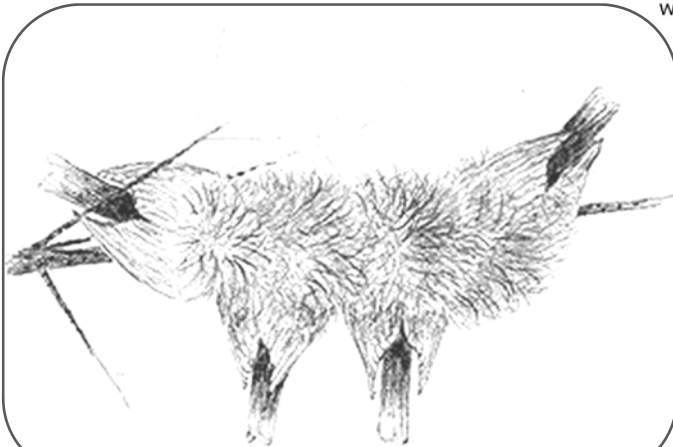
survival strategies, see the book *Winter World* by Bernd Heinrich.



Golden-crowned Kinglet. © Janine Russell.



One spotted Variant caterpillar.  
© Canadian National Collection



Bernd Heinrich's sketch of a kinglet cluster.  
© Bernd Heinrich

# 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OYBC CONFERENCE BY ELIJAH MARTINEAU, AGE 12

The 7th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference was held in the Great Hall of the Museum of Science building at the Toledo Zoo on November 2, 2013. Four young birders from the Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) gave presentations and lots of door prizes were given away throughout the day. We had the opportunity to build nestboxes for a future club service project and make fun crafts at the Fledgling Corner. One of the highlights by far, was the awesome behind the scenes tour of the Toledo Zoo Aviary by Robert Webster (Curator of Birds).

Steven Bischoff was the first young birder to give a presentation, which was about his studies on Tree Swallows and bluebirds. He discussed their weight as they grow from hatching to fledging and included photographs to show their size over time. What I think is really cool about his research project is that it can be used to relocate bluebirds to foster nests. Next, it was May Martineau's turn to give her presentation on the progression in her artwork over time. She showed slides of her art from 2009 all the way to 2013 including different techniques and what she learned over time. Finally, before lunch, Delaney Hayes gave a talk of the reality of balloon releases. It was surprising to learn how the two types of balloons, latex and foil, can negatively affect the birds and the environment in general.

Then we had a delicious lunch plus time to wander around the Toledo Zoo to look at the exhibits. I went into the Amphibians exhibit which had the Giant Chinese Salamander and a Golden Toad! Throughout the day, conference attendees were given the chance to enter the Kaufman Bird I.D. Photo Quiz. Kenn Kaufman creates this photo quiz each year for the conference. The quiz bird that challenged me was the Savannah Sparrow. The picture included in the quiz seemed different compared to the Savannah Sparrows that I



7th Annual OYBC Conference presenters and Master of Ceremony. Left to Right: Kayla Parry, Stephen Bischoff, Aspen Ellis, May Martineau, Nathan Martineau, Delaney Hayes, Sarah Seeley, and Jacob Stinnett.

have seen while birding and pictures in bird guides.

Next, was a lively presentation on what the "Zoo Teens" are and do at the Toledo Zoo. They spoke about what they do at the zoo and in the community, and encouraged us to get involved at our own local zoos. My brother, Nathan Martineau, gave a speech on the benefits of local birding. He showed how you can get to know your birds much better, seeing them up close and that occasionally a rarity shows up practically in your own backyard.



Below: Joey Tomei's poster presentation of his Camp Avocet (American Birding Association) experience during the summer of 2013.



Every want to hatch out of an egg? During some breaks, some young birders got to explore the Toledo Zoo and found some eggs that were the perfect size for them!



# ...7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OYBC CONFERENCE CONTINUED...

The keynote speaker, Aspen Ellis, took the stage to give her speech about her experiences working on different islands in Maine. Aspen spent the summer of 2013 studying and helping Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, and many other birds that nest on the islands of the coast of Maine. She really showed us what amazing experiences you can have if you want to do hands-on work with birds. One of the stories that she told was about when she was monitoring a nest and she had to go headfirst down a nest hole to gather data on the nest. There was a picture with only her feet sticking out of the hole!

The OYBC Conference always includes some great raffles and people won new binoculars, a new scope, a set of Kaufman field guides and other great prizes. Lastly, Kim Kaufman gave the closing remarks to end the conference and we all departed for home. It was a great day of learning, fun with birds, and seeing lots of OYBC members!



Above: Elijah and other young birders testing their bird identification skills! The Kaufman Bird ID Quiz is a favorite every year!

Left: Stephen Bischoff teaches other young birders how to construct a bird house. The bird houses that were constructed during the conference are going to be used for a future OYBC service project.



Above: Lily and Delaney make pinecone bird feeders at the *Fledgling Corner* craft area. Left: Several OYBC members pose for a photo opp with Kenn Kaufman.



# 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.*

**Statewide OYBC & BSBO  
Winter Blues Blow-out  
Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>  
1 PM to dusk**

Location: Killdeer Plains WA (Harpster, OH)  
Leaders: BSBO Staff

Join BSBO for this wonderful annual field trip to search for wintering raptors at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area! This is a free event, but registration is required. Please call BSBO at 419-898-4070 to let us know you're coming and how many will be in your party. We will meet at KPWA Headquarters at 1:00 PM (19100 County Highway 115 Harpster, OH 43323)

**OYBC Holmes County Chapter  
Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
8 AM— Noon**

Location: Stark County Wilderness Center (Wilmot, OH)

We will take a mid-winter hike on the wilderness center trails. We will also spend some time in the main building to observe wildlife through the center's wildlife window. Please dress for weather and bring hiking boots. \*Bring your own water & lunches, if needed.

We will meet at the main Stark County Wilderness Center building at 8 AM. Cost is FREE, unless you need a ride—\$5 per person.

Sign-up not required, however, please let us know if you are planning to come so that we know how many to expect. Contact Robert Hershberger at 330-674-6554.

**OYBC NE Chapter  
Birding Trumbull County  
Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
9 AM -3 PM**

Leader: Larry Richardson

Registration is required for all field trips. Please contact Bev Walborn at 440-734-6660 or [bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com).

**OYBC NE Chapter  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Time: TBD  
Leader: Paul Motts

Registration is required for all field trips. Please contact Bev Walborn at 440-734-6660 or [bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com).

**OYBC Central Chapter  
Scioto Trail State Park  
Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
Time: TBD**

For more details please contact your Chapter Advisor or email [info@ohioyoungbirders.org](mailto:info@ohioyoungbirders.org)

**OYBC NE Chapter  
Bird Banding  
Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

Location: Nature Center at Shaker Lakes  
Leaders: Julie West, Gary Neuman

Registration is required for all field trips. Please contact Bev Walborn at 440-734-6660 or [bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com).

**Statewide OYBC: International Migratory Bird Day  
Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
Time: TBD**

Meeting Location: Magee Marsh Wildlife Area Boardwalk

We'll celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by birding along the southwest Lake Erie shore at Magee Marsh W/A, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Metzger Marsh W/A. Target species will be Warblers, other neotropical songbirds, and shorebirds.

For more information about the activities during the Biggest Week in American Birding, check out the website: [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com)

**OYBC Central Chapter  
Birding By Kayak  
Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

Time: TBD  
Location: Powell, OH

Come paddle and bird at Twin Lakes in Powell, OH! More details will be available soon on the OYBC website.



*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

as of January 16, 2014

STUDENT MEMBERS

- Elizabeth Geiser
Simeon Geiser
Jethro Geiser
Arlen D. Nisley
Kyle McGovern
Joshua Fensler
Abril Lopez
Presley Riggs
Michael R. Hershberger
Rosemary Hershberger
Jesse Hershberger
James Hershberger
Wayne Miller
Eli C. Miller
Aaron Nisley
Sarah Parker

ADULT SUPPORTERS

- Michael Hershberger
Robin Parker
Bev Walborn
Hallie Mason



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
Time & Optics

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
\$250 - AMERICAN KESTREL
\$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!



# Black Swamp Bird Observatory

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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)

How did you hear about us?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in volunteering? How?  
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\_\_\_ \$ 10 - Student  
\_\_\_ \$ 20 - Adult Supporting Member  
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