



The mission of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory is to inspire the appreciation, enjoyment and conservation of birds and their habitats through research, education and outreach.



Toledo Zoo & Aquarium  
[www.toledo zoo.org](http://www.toledo zoo.org)

Toledo Zoo is committed to inspiring others to join us in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things.



Kenn Kaufman Bird ID Quiz  
[www.kaufmanfieldguides.com](http://www.kaufmanfieldguides.com)  
[www.facebook.com/KaufmanFieldGuides](https://www.facebook.com/KaufmanFieldGuides)

A noted bird expert, Kenn Kaufman is field editor for *Audubon* magazine and a regular contributor to all of the national birding magazines. A devoted conservationist, he works vigorously to promote the appreciation and protection of nature. One of his most recent books, *Field Guide to Nature of the Midwest*, is the prize for the Kaufman Bird Identification Quiz winner.

A set of Kaufman Field Guides will be raffled off today, donated by Kaufman Field Guides. Tickets for the field guide raffle are available for students and adults.

**Raffle tickets for the set of guides are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Proceeds benefit the OYBC.**



[www.zeiss.com](http://www.zeiss.com)



[www.timeandoptics.us](http://www.timeandoptics.us)

Thanks to Zeiss Sports Optics and Time & Optics for donating optics to the Ohio Young Birders Conference!

There is a Zeiss Conquest 8x42 binocular that will be raffled off today donated by Time & Optics, Ltd. Tickets for the binocular raffle are available for students and adults. **Raffle tickets for the binoculars are \$10 each or 6 for \$50. Proceeds benefit the OYBC.**

Every *student* in attendance is entered in a drawing for a *free* Zeiss TERRA ED 32 binocular donated by Zeiss Sports Optics. One lucky student will be going home with a new binocular!

# Black Swamp Bird Observatory welcomes you to the 13th Annual OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

*"THE MOST INSPIRING EVENT IN CONSERVATION"*

**November 9, 2019**  
**Toledo Zoo & Aquarium**



Founded in 2006 by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

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

Hosted by our partners at:



# THANK YOU!

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Lead Sponsors



### Bald Eagle Level



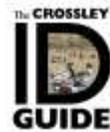
### Red-tailed Hawk Level



### Merlin Level



### American Kestrel Level



## Support the OYBC: Here's How!

The Ohio Young Birders Club exists through the support of members and donors. Here are some easy ways to help Ohio Young Birders:

- Become a volunteer! (Contact Laura Guerard if interested.)
- Buy raffle tickets for the prizes donated by our wonderful sponsors!
- Join the OYBC, and encourage others to join as well!
- Make a donation today at the registration table or online at [ohioyoungbirders.org](http://ohioyoungbirders.org)!

Encourage businesses and organizations to support the OYBC at the following levels:

- |         |                        |
|---------|------------------------|
| \$1,000 | Bald Eagle Level       |
| \$750   | Peregrine Falcon Level |
| \$500   | Red-tailed Hawk Level  |
| \$250   | Merlin Level           |
| \$100   | American Kestrel Level |



### Fabulous Raffle Items:

- Zeiss Conquest HD 8x42 Binocular
- Set of Kaufman Field Guides
- Hand-woven bag from Guatemala
- Smart phone App pack
- A waterfowl print of artwork by Danial Allard
- Hunt's Photo & Video Gift Card
- National Geographic Birds of the Photo ARK



Proceeds support the OYBC Scholarship Funds.

# OYBC Unveils Our COOL New T-shirt



## Conference Special ~ 15% discount

Sizes Adult S – XXXL: \$16.50

YS – YL: \$14.50

Our exciting new t-shirt features the artwork created by OYBC members during the 11th annual conference at Aullwood Audubon Center. Special thanks to Chris Rowlands, Outreach & Environmental Educator at Aullwood for helping make the artwork possible.

## Evolution of the OYBC Logo...

In the beginning...



By Phil Chaon

...Sometime in the middle...



By Ethan Kistler

... Today!



By Jen Brumfield



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00 AM—10:00 AM Registration

Special Morning Activities:

Explore the Museum of Natural History, Nature's Nursery, & the Kaufman Bird ID Quiz

8:30 AM Meet the Zoo Animals

9 - 10:00 AM Behind-the-scenes Tours

10:00 AM *Welcome, Opening Remarks*

Kimberly Kaufman, Executive Director, BSBO

Laura Guerard, Education Director, BSBO

Kent Bekker, Director of Conservation and Research, Toledo Zoo

Ethan Rising, Master of Ceremony

10:25 AM "Quintana Roo - Mexico Birding" Matthew Rice

10:55 AM "The Road Less Traveled By" by Kaylee McCaskey

11:25 AM "Camp Colorado Jeopardy" by Raúl Castro-Dean

11:50 PM Quick Announcements & Group Photo

12:00 PM Lunch Break

*Kaufman Bird ID Quiz closes after lunch break*

*Meet the Zoo Animals with Toledo Zoo staff*

12:45 PM Special Guest Presentation, Jr. Duck Stamp by Daniel Allard

1:00 PM "Opal Ashcraft: Birder, Artist, and Friend" by Elizabeth Kanzeg

1:30 PM "ConTAC Panel Discussion"

with Zak Beaver, Katelyn Shelton, & Helena Souffrant

2:00 PM 15-Minute Break

*Raffle sales close after the break*

2:15 PM **Keynote Presentation: Tom Johnson** *"Learning from Birds"*

3:15 PM Kaufman Bird ID Quiz, Presented by Kenn Kaufman

Assisted by: Jessica Decker, Josh King, & Mitchell SanGregory

3:45 PM "BWIAB: East Meets West" by Travis Kaye & Adriana Losey

4:00 PM Raffle Drawings

4:20 PM *Closing Remarks*

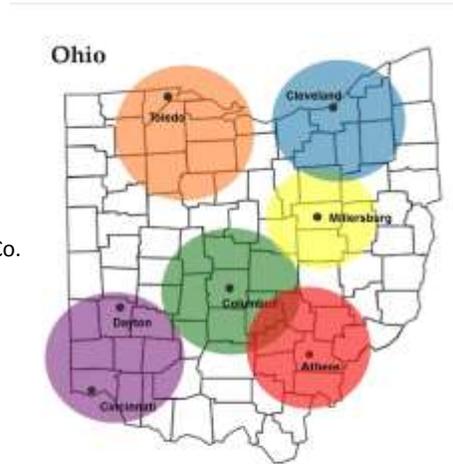
# A Shout-Out to our OYBC Chapters!

## Statewide Coordinator

Laura Guerard

## Chapter Coordinators

Richard "Buster" Banish, Northeast  
 Cassie Crawford, Southwest  
 Jamie Cunningham, Northwest  
 Amy Downing, Northwest  
 Alex Eberts, Statewide  
 Jessica Evans, Central  
 Warren Grody, Central  
 Michael Hershberger, Holmes-Wayne Co.  
 Liz McQuaid, Northeast  
 Kelly Milewski, Northwest  
 Ann Petrushka, Central  
 Darlene Sillick, Central  
 Emma Strick, Northeast  
 Patty Toneff, Northwest  
 Bev Walborn, Northeast  
 Katie Ware, Northwest  
 Alicia Wilhelmy, Southwest



# Kaufman Bird ID Quiz Assistants



## Jessica Decker

Jessica is a Junior at Ferndale High School in Ferndale, Michigan. She started birding five years ago and volunteers at multiple wildlife rescue facilities. In addition to birds, Jessica loves singing, reading, and Star Wars. She is an accomplished classical singer and has sang for the Detroit Opera House and is in the All-State Honors Choir.

## Josh King

Josh is an eighteen-year-old birder and wildlife photographer from Celina, Ohio. He has been birding for over ten years, but has always had a passion for wildlife and nature. Although he has birded in many places around the country, Josh still enjoys birding in his hometown and the area around Grand Lake, where he has discovered many exciting rarities, including the first successful breeding record of Black-necked Stilts in Ohio. When he is not birding, Josh also enjoys photography, fishing, and hockey.



## Mitchell SanGregory

Mitchell SanGregory is a sophomore at Bellevue High School, in Bellevue, Ohio. He is passionate about knowing and protecting the natural world, with particular interests in entomology and ornithology (he also has a growing fondness for reptiles). Mitchell plans to follow his passion for nature on his future career path.

## CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

Kenn Kaufman ◊ Tyler Ficker ◊ Kevin Perozeni ◊ Cassidy Ficker  
 ◊ Gautum Apte ◊ Doug Whitman ◊ Amy Downing  
 Nancy Bogart ◊ Julie Heitz ◊ Nate Koszycki  
 Jill Noll ◊ Katie Ware ◊ Pattye Nicholls ◊ Yvonne Thoma-Patton  
 ◊ Jamie Cunningham ◊ Bev Walborn ◊ Darlene Sillick



## Special Guest: Daniel Allard

Daniel is an active outdoorsman, conservationist, and wildlife artist. His artwork has been featured on two state duck stamps and he is four time Ducks Unlimited state sponsor artist.



2018-19 Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp

# MASTER OF CEREMONY

## Ethan Rising

Ethan Rising is a 17-year-old birder born and raised in Cincinnati. Ethan's fascination with birds began when a preschool teacher taught a unit on the Bald Eagle; his interest has now lasted over thirteen years! Ethan has attended the Biggest Week in American Birding since he was in third grade and now helps as a guide for the festival. In addition to birding much of the United States, Ethan has also had the opportunity to bird abroad in Ecuador and Costa Rica. His interest in birds has since expanded to include all wildlife. Besides birding, he enjoys photography, fishing, and baseball. Ethan is a senior at The Seven Hills School in Cincinnati and plans to pursue a career in environmental science.



# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference

## Keynote Presentation by Tom Johnson

### “Learning from Birds”

Birds have so much to teach us. Their feathers carry secrets about their diet and breeding biology, their migrations reveal incredible feats of endurance, and their voices convey not only incredible beauty but also an evolutionary legacy - and there's still plenty left to learn. Tom Johnson has spent his life learning from birds in various ways as a birder, a biologist, a photographer, an audio recordist, and a birding tour leader, and he will share some of the lessons he's learned about birds (and people) along the way.

## About Tom

Tom Johnson grew up surrounded by birds in central Pennsylvania. Fascinated by science and the outdoors from a young age, and encouraged by his mom and dad, his obsession with birds took hold at an early age. He banded migrant landbirds and owls, conducted point counts for the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, and set off on many road trips to learn about North American birds. Tom was fortunate to complete his undergraduate studies at Cornell University within the inspiring orbit of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Following university, Tom surveyed desert birds in Arizona and California and studied seabirds from NOAA ships between Nova Scotia and the Bahamas. He is an eBird reviewer, a regional editor for North American Birds, a regular contributor to Birding, and a member of the ABA Checklist Committee. Now living in Maryland, Tom devotes his energy to recording bird sounds, photographing flying birds, searching for vagrants and puzzling hybrids, night birding, and reading as much as he can. He's an inveterate road tripper and frequently looks for excuses to travel long distances in pursuit of birds and mammals. You might also find him on a boat looking for tubenoses and other seabirds just about anywhere.

Tom loves helping others pursue their passion for birding and the outdoors, and has felt lucky to lead tours for Field Guides around the world since 2014. Though he focuses on the Neotropics and North America, Tom has a diverse schedule that includes Antarctica, India, Australia, and more.

## Sunday Field Trips

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Oak Openings Metropark  
(4139 Girdham Rd, Swanton, OH 43558)



8:30 AM :

- Guided birdwalk with the OSU Ornithology Club & Nate K.
- Bird Banding Demo with BSBO staff

10:30 AM: Private Tour of the Cannaley Treehouse Village with Kelly Milewski, Metroparks Toledo

# ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



## Elizabeth Kanzeg

Elizabeth serves on the student advisory board for the central chapter of OYBC. She loves the study of languages, the intersection of history with the arts, and boba tea. She recently appeared on the web series "Birds of North America" and has been blogging at [birdiesfinchesandferns.blogspot.com](http://birdiesfinchesandferns.blogspot.com) for five years.

## Raúl Castro-Dean

Raúl first identified a Red-winged Blackbird when he was four years old and has enjoyed birds ever since. Field trips are a big part of his home school curriculum, and Raúl enjoys birding both in Ohio and in Guatemala where he was born. Raúl's favorite U.S. bird is a Northern Saw-whet Owl and his favorite Guatemala bird is a Pink-headed Warbler. At Camp Colorado he was excited to see a Brown-capped Rosy Finch.



## Kaylee McCaskey

Kaylee McCaskey began officially birding at the age of 11 through a 4-H project. Now 16, she has enjoyed birding in 48 states and five countries. Kaylee's passion is not limited to birds: she also enjoys searching for land and aquatic invertebrates, fungus, and herps. Her future goals include educating the public about the importance of conservation, possibly via a zoology degree.

## Matthew Rice

Matthew Rice is a 7th grader at Hastings Middle School, in Upper Arlington, Ohio. He's been a birder for six years, and loves adding species to his life list. When he isn't birding, he's usually thinking about space and astronomy. Matthew loves to share his knowledge of birds and wildlife with others, and hopes to some day be an ornithologist and naturalist.



## Conservation Teen Advisory Council (ConTAC) Discussion Panel

ConTAC is a statewide network of student-leaders working together to enhance ODNR's youth outreach and program efforts. Three OYBC members have been invited to serve on the 2019-2020 advisory council. This panel will allow participants to learn what ConTAC is and how they can be involved.



## Zak Beaver

Zak is an avid outdoorsman and conservationist who enjoys fishing, birding, kayaking, horseback riding, gardening and the shooting sports. He is heavily involved in 4-H at the state and county level where his 2019 awards include: State Champion- skeet shooting and dog rally, County Champion-Dog Obedience, County Best in Show-gardening and agriculture. This year, Zak was appointed to the ODNR Director's Conservation Teen Advisory Council (ConTAC) and he is a member of the Columbus Police Explorers Program.

## Katelyn Shelton

Katelyn is a junior in high school and has been a part of OYBC for nearly four years now. Ever since she saw an American Woodcock perform his display, birds were sparked into focus, becoming a whole-hearted passion. Besides those "lovely puffs of feather," she enjoys spending time marching with my high school's band, hiking, kayaking, reading, and writing.



## Helena Souffrant

Helena has been a member of OYBC for five years. She is part of the Northeast Chapter. In addition to birding, Helena enjoys hiking, kayaking, and playing music. Helena is excited to represent ConTAC on the very first OYBC Conference panel discussion!