

Ohio Young Birders C<u>lub</u>

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1 SPRING 2010



The OYBC presented *Birding 101* to nearly 40 audience members at the Shreve Migration Sensation Festival in March. Here OYBC Youth Advisory Panel Members Wyatt Miller and Sarah Winnicki share the excitement of birding with families following the formal presentation.

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Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

"Encouraging, Educating, and Empowering Tomorrow's Conservation Leaders."

> Coordinators Ken Keffer John Sawvel

Youth Advisory Panel

Wyatt Miller
Bret McCarty
Lukas Padegimas
Ben Thornton
Sarah Winnicki

The OYBC was founded by

Black Swamp
Bird Observatory
BSBO promotes sound
stewardship of avian resources in
the western basin of Lake Erie
through research and education.

Black Swamp Bird Observatory 13551 West St. Rt. 2 Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

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

419 898-4070 (voice) 419 898-1363 (fax)

Email: info@ohioyoungbirders.org

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

And be sure to visit the Ohio Young Birders Network: www.ohioyoungbirders.ning.com

Guidelines for the OYBC Youth Advisory Panel (YAP)

Do you have what it takes to be on the YAP?

YAP members agree to the following responsibilities:

- 1). Attend four meetings per year of the OYBC planning committee.
- 2). Serve as a representative and ambassador of the OYBC at all times and conduct yourself accordingly.
- 3). Include my membership in the OYBC and participation in the YAP in my bio.
- 4). Serve as a mentor to younger members of the OYBC.
- 5). Write one article per year for the club newsletter, Golden-Wings
- 6). Be a current member of the OYBC

The OYBC is run by the Youth Advisory Panel with support from BSBO staff and volunteers. Without the YAP there is no OYBC. If you are interested in serving on the YAP, please contact BSBO.

The Ohio Young Birders Club website has a NEW look. Check it out at

www.ohioyoungbirders.org

The website, along with the OYBC Facebook and NING networks, provide the most current information regarding important conservation issues.

Find suggestions about how you can help with the oil spill recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast, how you can contribute comments on the proposed Lake Erie Wind Turbine project, how you can become a BSBO volunteer on various research projects, or how to stay in touch with young birder friends from around the world.

Introducing the Ohio Young Birders Club Coordinators.



John Sawvel OYBC Membership Coordinator

JOHN SAWVEL
John Sawvel began
volunteering with
BSBO in 2001,
primarily on the
spring hawk watch
project. His photo
(to the left) was
snapped on the
tower at Magee
Marsh during a chilly
hawk watch day near

the end of February. John has been a keen birder ever since hearing co-workers discussing warblers in the fall of 1999.

While warblers are John's favorite group of birds, he especially enjoys being on the Magee Marsh tower in early spring before many of the warbler arrive. "In March, regardless of the weather, something is always flying along the lakeshore even on rugged weather days. Ducks, geese, Tundra Swans, blackbirds, Killdeer, American Robins, American Crows, Horned Larks, and more fill the air. And on good days, low-flying Red-shouldered Hawks buzz the tower."

Having grown up in southeast Ohio, hunting, trapping, and fishing with his dad, John is now living in Toledo. Mr. Sawvel maintains the urban jungle provides many opportunities to see birds and other aspects of wildlife. "Our tiny backyard with native plants attracts an amazing array of insects. A small, nearby, spring-fed stream is home to Mallard Ducks in the winter and nesting Barn Swallows in the summer. This sliver of water is probably the source of the glamorous Ebony Jewelwing Damselfly that occasionally visits our yard. Our mature oak trees and bird feeders attract many spring and fall migrating birds to our home." John states, "observing and recording nature through the changing seasons within walking distance of home is one of my favorite activities. It's great to seek out that which lies beyond, but don't overlook what's nearby."

A well-rounded naturalist, John Sawvel assists with all aspects of the Ohio Young Birders Club. He manages the membership database, leads fieldtrips throughout the year, and can often be found working on the numerous webpage materials for the OYBC.

KEN KEFFER

to find out what John's favorite warbler is register on the OYBC Ning networking site http://ohioyoungbirders.ning.com/ Black Swamp Bird
Observatory Education
Director Ken Keffer
grew up exploring the
prairies and the peaks
of Wyoming. His
spark bird quest
began with a sign at a
trailhead in the Wind
River Mountains of



Ken Keffer Education Director

Wyoming and was not completed until 11 years later on the coast of Rhode Island.

Ken graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology and Management. Ken's extensive field biology experience includes working with small mammals and birds in Grand Teton National Park, flying squirrels in the Tongass National Forest of Alaska, blackfooted ferrets in northern New Mexico, and Bactrian camels in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia.

Ken has evolved as an educator while working as a Community Naturalist for Audubon Wyoming and on numerous trips to the Teton Science Schools. Most recently Ken worked as the stewardship and outreach coordinator for a Maryland land trust. As a bird bander, Keffer has been involved with projects banding diverse species from Saltmarsh Sparrows and Brown Pelicans to Green-tailed Towhees and Burrowing Owls.

A long time member of The Wildlife Society, Ken is also a member of the Bird Education Network, the National Association for Interpretation, the Children and Nature Network, the American Birding Association, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the Chesapeake and Bowling Green Curling Clubs.

The recipient of a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Wildlife Leadership Award, Ken strives to combine science and education with the hope of inspiring future citizen scientist stewards around the globe.

to find out what Ken's spark bird was register on the OYBC Facebook site www.facebook.com/ohioyoungbirders

GOLDEN-WINGS

Many thanks to all those who put time into this newsletter. Special thanks to:

Birdfreak.com Kim Check Wyatt Miller Dakota Outcalt Lukas Padegimas Kayla Parry John Sawvel Jamin Schrock Kathleen Seeley Sarah Winnicki

GOLDEN-WINGS Design & Layout: Delores Cole Ken Keffer

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:
Deborah Griffith

The GOLDEN-WINGS editor is happy to receive for newsletter consideration your:

Trip Reports
Species Profiles
Articles & Book Reports
Sketches & Photos

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is July 15, 2010

Email: in-fo@ohioyoungbirders.org

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

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Cover Photo: OYBC presentation at Shreve Migration Sensation by Kim Check

Young Birder Profile . . . Spotlight on Dakota Outcalt, age 12



OYBC member Dakota Outcalt photo by Birdfreak.com

GW: When did you start birding? **DO: I don't remember starting**to bird, but I remember the first time I was able to find a bird with bins and saw a Palm Warbler clearly. That will always be my favorite warbler.

GW: What or who sparked your interest in birds?
DO: My uncle Eddie Calloway and my mom.

GW: Have you had birding mentors or heroes who helped you?
DO: Yes—Uncle Eddie and my grandpa. Birding friends Dan and Barb Williams in Rockford, Illinois. Also Kenn and Kim Kaufman from Ohio. And Jeff Corwin who I met once.

GW: Do you have a favorite bird, and, if so, what is it and what makes it your favorite?
DO: The Northern Gannet, because of their mating dance and their distinctive face. I have not seen one yet, but I will.

GW: Where is you favorite place to go birding?
DO: Horicon Marsh in Horicon, Wisconsin.

GW: You are new to Ohio correct? How long have you been here, and where in Ohio have you gotten to bird so far? DO: I moved here in January. I went to Shreve Migration Sensation. I went to a BSBO Woodcock presentation. I have also been to Magee Marsh and Ottawa NWR.

GW: What bird would you most like to see, and why?
DO: I would love to see a Golden Eagle because they are fierce and powerful and I've never seen one before.

GW: What would you say is your greatest accomplishment in birding so far?

DO: I tied as a winner in the **writing module of the ABA's** Young Birder Contest in 2008.

GW: Congratulations, that is a great accomplishment. Are you interested in any other natural science areas besides birds?

DO: Yes. I am interested in conservation, spiders, reptiles, and insects.

GW: Do you have any other interests/hobbies?
DO: I love camping and hiking. I play the trombone, viola and guitar. I love music.

GW: In your experience, what do most people your age think about birding? And if their view of birding isn't totally positive, what can we do to change that?

DO: Most people my age seem to think who cares about birding? We can have programs to bring bird information to schools and have more specific birding things at nature events.

GW: How could we get more young people interested in nature? DO: By getting them to go outside more and by having more adults spend time showing kids about birds. Someone like Jeff Corwin, but who talks about birds

would make birding more well known.

GW: Do you think the internet can foster a community of young birders, and if so, how?
DO: Yes. By blogging and Facebook, but I am not allowed to have a Facebook account yet.

GW: You can be on the OYBC Ning site though. Also, your family runs the Birdfreak blog, and you have your own blog too don't you? What do you like most about blogging? DO: Yes. Sharing experiences with others makes it more exciting for me.

GW: Have you taken any birding trips out of state?
DO: Yes. I have birded in many states with my family. The biggest trip I went on was to Rhode Island with my uncle and grandpa for a birding event, and we also went to Cape Cod.

GW: If you could go anyplace in the world to see a bird, where would you go and what bird would you look for?
DO: I would go to the Galapagos I slands and find a Blue-footed Booby.

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

DO: I have been to one birding convention which was the Midwest Birding Symposium in Iowa.

GW: You also helped OYBC at the Shreve Migration Sensation (see cover photo and page 2). Besides the OYBC, what other organizations do you belong to? DO: I belong to the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society.

GW: Where do you go to school? DO: Donnell Middle School in Findlay, Ohio.

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

DO: Yes—First I will join the Army and then I plan to study ornithology and agriculture.

GW: What is your dream job? DO: To be a farmer and conservationist.

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?

DO: I will never stop birding or caring about birds.

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

DO: An Encyclopedia of Snakes book that I read a million times when I was younger and still read.

GW: What are your favorite Websites?

DO: www.birdfreak.com www.monarchbfly.com www.marion.ohio-state.edu/ spiderweb/mainpage.htm

GW: What is your favorite movie?

DO: Lord of the Rings Trilogy and Pirates of the Caribbean.

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

DO: My Golden Retriever and best friend Maxx passed away a couple years ago. I will be getting a dog in August for my birthday.

GW: Do you volunteer anywhere? DO: Not regularly, but I have helped the NCIOS with birding events.

GW: Have you taken or taught any birding classes/courses?
DO: Not really, but I learn a lot on field trips.

GW: Are you involved with any birding projects?
DO: I might enter the ABA Young Birder Contest again.

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

DO: Yes - 245

GW: Has becoming a member of the OYBC changed birding for you? If so, can you describe how? DO: Yes, I have seen that other kids are just as into birding as I am and it is a great feeling. GW: Besides the monthly field trips and annual conference that we schedule, what else can the OYBC offer to their members? DO: I think camping would be a good idea and also maybe some work days to get together to learn about restoration such as helping a prairie burn or pulling garlic mustard. It would be cool to have a booth to promote the OYBC at events for Earth Day or at other nature events. How about a trip to Alaska?



OYBC member Dakota Outcalt

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

Sky-Strong

Watching as the hawks fly free
Paying no heed to me
Dominating human signs
Truly independent of mankind
Song of true might
Be in awesome flight

Flying, screaming, Always being...
...Strong.

Kathleen Seeley age 15

DON'T FORGET!

Send us your sketches, articles, poetry, and photographs for publishing in the next Golden-wings issue!

Mail to: BSBO, 13551, W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449 or email to info@ohioyoungbirders.org

A beautiful Indian summer ended abruptly as the chilling nor'easter struck down the rouge maple leaves and sent the temperatures into the teens. My hope of seeing any of the Rufus Hummingbirds reported around Shreve plunged even lower. Well, at least I did see the Rubythroated Hummingbirds earlier in the year. Of course, I would never ignore a Ruby-throat flitting by, yet I also wanted to see something new and unusual. All of the three Rufus Hummingbirds reported were at least a two-hour

drive away from my modest residence in Cleveland, and no one I knew planned to go down and see them. How much I wanted a car to jump in and drive to see just one of them!

Well, my three-week-long persuasion effort to go on that two-hour ride finally paid off, when my father saw a picture of an adult male Rufus Hummingbird that showed up at an Amish farm on the outskirts of Shreve. Under the pretext

that he needed to do the bird justice and take a better picture, Dad finally took my grandmother and me. Actually, I got to drive down there, which made the trip even more fun.

Interestingly enough, the residence that the hummer visited lies in between two counties. As I drove back and forth trying to find the higher street address (with 610 and decreasing on one side until the streets enters a new county with

and increasing street 10,050 numbers), I saw a tractor with some Amish people. I asked if they could point out the place to go to, and conveniently found that they were heading for that house. We arrived and waited for about 15 minutes before we saw the Rufus Hummingbird, who, like a large bright bee, buzzed in and landed right on the feeder. Of course, he didn't stay there for long; he just got banded and didn't feel like staying around for a prolonged period of time. He would often land and rest on a



Rufus Hummingbird photographed by the author near Shreve, Ohio.

bush by the feeder. Then, he would disappear. The closest view I got was when he flew right by my head as he made a loop and once again landed at the feeder. As we watched, more people arrived, and the view was amazing. The Rufus Hummingbird stayed for only a few more days and flew down south, leaving a record of the most beautiful Rufus Hummingbird to visit Ohio.

Of course, I didn't expect to see another unusual

hummingbird; that would be wishful thinking. But, in the first weeks of December, there was a confirmed Allen's Hummingbird banded in Sugarcreek, Naturally, many more birders go chased this rarity; it was the first Ohio record, after all. I got a ride with some birders going down to the area. We arrived just as the Allen's left the scene, and we waited for 20 more minutes until it returned for only a little while. Then, a half-hour passed before it arrived once again. Unfortunately, it didn't return for the next hour

> and a half because the shadows Ωf people on this hill reflected in the windows the by feeders. It took a while before everyone realized they needed to get closer to the feeder so the bird would come again.

> I remember seeing my first hummingbirds when I was four years old in Mississippi. Both Black-chinned Hummingbirds and Ruby-throated Humming birds landed at the feeders or fed right

from the Petunias on our balcony. As events progress and the world changes with increasing momentum, we can rest assured, for now, that Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will come back every summer for at least the next 10 years. And, given the present indications, we may be lucky enough to see Rufous Hummingbirds on a more regular basis - and maybe even an occasional Allen's!

Artwork by OYBC graduate Jamin Schrock



Artwork by OYBC graduate Jamin Schrock



to see more Ohio Young Birders Club artwork visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org

OYBC YAP Members Selected For Prestigious Summer Camps



Wyatt Miller (left) receives a \$250 Tom LePage Scholarship from Kirtland Bird Club President Scott VanValkenburg. Wyatt will attend Camp Chiricahua this summer. Camp Chiricahua, in southern Arizona, presents young birders the extraordinary opportunity to share a mutual love of birds and nature in one of the greatest natural history locations in North America.

photo: Kirtland Bird Club



Sarah Winnicki (center), seen here on the 2009 Kelleys Island trip, will attend the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Young Birders Event. This exciting program helps teenagers to explore career possibilities and will include field trips, workshop on study skin preparation sound recording, and field notes. The interaction with Cornell staff and the growing network of young birders from around the country adds to this exciting opportunity.

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 fund raising events. Applicants must be between the ages of 12 and 18.

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

OYBC Participates in the Biggest Week in American Birding



Olivia Burton with White-crowned Sparrow



Maddie Sanford with "Traill's" Flycatcher (Willow or Alder Flycatcher)



Robert Reynard with Brown Thrasher



Black-throated Green Warbler by Dakota Outcalt, age 12





Blanding Turtle by Robert Reynard, age 16

On May 15, 2010 my mom and I went on the Ohio Young Birders Club field trip to Magee Marsh to look for warblers and vireos. On the first trail, our group had 10 people.

We all came back to the Black Swamp Bird Observatory for a bird banding session. I found the banding really interesting, and I was really excited when I got to help release a female American Redstart.

Later, we went to the boardwalk, but some of the group split-up after the banding session. Altogether I saw fifty-two different species of birds, but I'd seen sixteen already. Four I only saw at the banding station, so I don't think they would count for the the first year of taking Ohio Birds. I Ohio Birds 4-H project I'm taking. For



Kayla Parry with American Redstart

4-H I had to find thirty new species of birds in my second year that were different from the twenty found in

found thirty-two on this trip, so that part of my project is taken care of.

My favorite from the first trail were the Yellow Warblers - we saw quite a few of those! During the banding session, I was really excited to hold the American Redstart and release it. While on the boardwalk hike, we saw many different kinds, but the most fun was the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. We heard it first and then saw it way up in the canopy. We also saw 4 male Prothonotary Warblers, which were quite colorful, and one female.

I really had fun at Magee Marsh on the Ohio Young Birders Club trip.

Kayla Parry

STATES WITH YOUNG BIRDER CLUBS . . . WOW!



COMING SOON

BSBO is developing a

How to Start a Young Birders Club Toolkit

Help us expand the network. Start a Young Birders Club in *your* area.

Ohio Young Birder Club New York Young Birders Club PA Young Birders Club Tucson Young Birders Club Indiana Young Birders Delaware Dunlins Young Birders Club Central Texas Young Birders Club Idaho Young Birders Club Oklahoma Young Birders Club Illinois Young Birders Club Wake Audubon Young Naturalist Club Alabama Young Birders Club Georgia Young Birders Club Vermont Young Birders Club Audubon Young Birders Club (Naples, Florida) San Antonio Young Birders Club

Please consider sponsoring the next Golden-wings newsletter or the How to Start a Young Birders Club Toolkit.

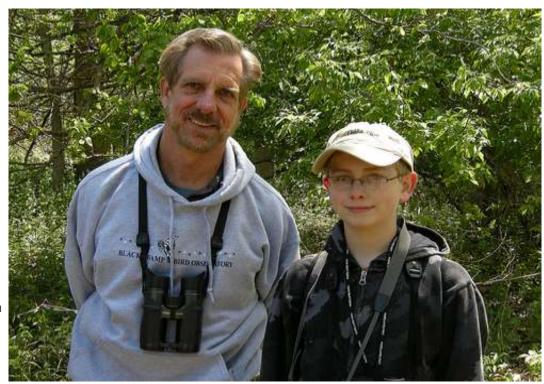
call BSBO for details 419-898-4070

Please contact us if we are missing any Young Birders Clubs, or if you are interested in starting a Young Birders Club in your state.

Book Review: Kingbird Highway

Kingbird Highway, by Kenn Kaufman, is a non-fiction book about extreme bird watching in the 1970s, and it's full of information about the life of Kenn Kaufman, who is now a popular author, birder, and conservationist. "Birder" is a term for someone who watches birds, as is "bird watcher."

In the first part of the book, Kaufman tells about being extremely interested in birds as a child. He bailed out of school at age 16 to hitchhike around the country to see every species of bird in North America. Most of the book recounts his adventures. Along the way, he met many important people and saw hundreds of birds. Kenn Kaufman learned to study and appreciate birds.



Kenn Kaufman and Dakota Outcalt 2010 International Migratory Bird Day

Birding in the 1970s involved a lot of competitive questing to see the most species of birds in one year in North America. The book also explains how the American Birding Association (ABA) grouped birds into categories and decided which ones could be listed. Kenn Kaufman counted more than 650 bird species in that big year of birding he writes about. He almost beat the record of 669, but the numbers aren't exact anymore because many species get split or lumped into new groups.

This book made me want to become more active and serious about birding. I also relate to the author, because, like him, I love to be out in the fields rather than in a classroom.

One of the ideas from *Kingbird Highway* that I agree with is that, if you have a dream, you should try to fulfill it. But I don't agree that you should drop out of school and hitchhike to fulfill your dream.

Compared with other nonfiction books I have read, this is one of the most interesting because it gives details of an exciting adventure and it is about a subject I love, which is birding. Another factor that made this book interesting to me was that I actually know the author, I have gone birding with him, and he has signed all of my bird books.

I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in nature and really adventurous travel. If you like birds, especially, you will love this book.

Dakota Outcalt, age 12

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

Prairie Rose Farm Weekend Marysville, Ohio, July 23rd — 25th Sponsors: Tim and Donna Daniel

Reservations required, call 419-898-4070

Cost: \$10

Meet Friday, July 23rd at 7 P.M. at the Kroger at 1095 W. Fifth Street, Marysville, OH 43040 The trip concludes Sunday, July 25th at 1 P.M.

OYBC is thrilled to be invited back for a return visit to Prairie Rose Farm, a private nature preserve near Marysville, Ohio, for an overnight campout! The preserve hosts a staggering diversity of life. Highlights will include the awe inspiring spectacle of a huge colony of bats, a nature scavenger hunt, seining in the creek, looking for reptiles and amphibians, and learning about the animals that live on the farm.



Prairie Rose Farm

The Prairie Rose Farm campout is an annual tradition and is one of the OYBC's favorite field trip destinations. You will NOT want to miss this trip!

Bring a tent, a sleeping bag & pillow, field guides, and snacks to share. BSBO may have extra gear, but call ahead if you need to borrow anything.

Call 419-898-4070 to register or with questions.



Common Green Darner

AUGUST Shorebirds & Dragonflies in NW Ohio Meet at BSBO, August 14th at 9 A.M. Reservations required, call 419-898-4070 Cost: FREE

First we will head to the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge shorebird banding station, and we will end the day at the Port Clinton beach looking for plovers. Stops along the way for dragonflies, damselflies, and birds will include Metzger Marsh and Mallard Marsh Wildlife Areas and Maumee Bay State Park.

Bring a lunch, we'll be out all day.

Call 419-898-4070 to register or with questions.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER: TBD

NOVEMBER 20: OYBC Conference

DECEMBER 19: Fremont Christmas Bird Count

WELCOME TO ALL OF THE NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS

STUDENT MEMBERS

William Burke
April Bryan
James Eyster
James Fox
Jacob Hochstetler
Alex Johnson
Matthew Johnson
Dakota Outcalt
Tyler McClain
Jacqueline Pelow
Stephanie Rose
Doug Whitman

ADULT SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Mary Acken
Tom Bartlett
Matt Burke
Janet Creamer
Mike Edington
Dave Horn
Patricia James
Ken Keffer
Shelly Kirn
Jann Komorowski
Joe Komorowski

Chris Landes
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Wild Birds Unlimited
Cincinnati

register for the
Ohio Young Birders Club
Facebook and NING networks

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



Black Swamp Bird Observatory 13551 West State Route 2

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Email:					
If Student, Age:					
Yes, I want to conserve trees	and expense; sign me up for electron	ic delivery of all OYBC's	s communications.		
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