



OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1 SPRING 2015

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"

Members of the OYBC NE Chapter met Don and Lillian Stokes during the 2015 Biggest Week In American Birding



Our sincere thanks to the following people who together helped raise more than \$6,000 for the OYBC by donating their time for the Celebrity Bird Walks during the 2015 Biggest Week In American Birding: Birds and Blooms Magazine, Don and Lillian Stokes, Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman, Kevin Karlson and Dale Rosselet, Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

Coordinators

Jan Auburn, OYBC NE
Bill Creasey, OYBC SW
Tim Daniel, OYBC Central
Nina Harfmann, OYBC Central
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Mike Sustin, OYBC NE
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Bev Walborn, OYBC NE
Kate Zimmerman, BSBO

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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Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449
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info@ohioyoungbirders.org

Visit us at
www.ohioyoungbirders.org
www.bsbo.org



Like us on Facebook
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

!! SAVE THE DATE !!

9th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference November 7, 2015

Are you interested in speaking or giving a poster presentation at the 9th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference? If so, go to ohioyoungbirders.org to download the speaker proposal form.

Speaker and poster presentation topics from previous conferences include the following:

- Bird conservation issues & projects
- Inspiring others to love birds
- The art of sketching & painting birds
- Bird research
- Summer bird camp experience
- OYBC service projects



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

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



Have you renewed your OYBC membership for 2015?

Visit
www.ohioyoungbirders.org
to renew TODAY!

Past OYBC Bird I.D. Quiz 2015 Winners

January: Gautam Apte
February/March: Kaylee McCaskey
April: Sameer Apte
May: No Quiz

2015 JUNE/JULY I D QUIZ: Take the Icterid Challenge?



GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Savannah Carter
Miron Gotfryd
Bella Little
Nate Martineau
Elijah Martineau
Sariah Martineau
Kaylee McCaskey
Anna Rose
Andrew Seiffert
Anthony Troyer

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:
Kate Zimmerman

GOLDEN-WINGS Proof Reader: Karen Zach

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

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

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is September 1, 2015

Email:
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Cover Photo:
OYBC NE Chapter and BSBO staff birding Magee Marsh boardwalk in May.

YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE: BELLA LITTLE, AGE 15

Golden Wings (GW) - What year did you start birding?
Bella Little (BL) - **I'd say around 2010.**

GW - What or who got you interested in birds?
BL - My dad, because he birds a lot.

GW - Have you had birding mentors or heroes who helped you?
BL - **I've had a few. My Pa, he has taken me birding, and my Dad takes me out a lot, too.** Darlene Sillick, from OYBC, helped me get involved in birding; she helped me to meet other birders, and she helped me get involved in bird projects. Tim Daniels is also on the list—he helps me with my camera and he is good at identifying birds.

GW - Do you have a favorite bird, and if so, what is it and what makes it your favorite?
BL - My favorite bird is the Carolina Chickadee. I like how it **behaves; I like its curiosity. It's smart and it's cute!**

GW - Where is your favorite place to bird?
BL - For big birding occasions, Magee Marsh; for normal trips, I like to bird at feeders at the Metro Parks.

GW - What bird would you most like to see, and why?
BL - **I want to see a Stellar's Jay, because they are beautiful and I've not seen one before.**

GW - What would you say is your greatest accomplishment in birding thus far?
BL - I had a poster stand about Chickadee behavior at the Bluebird Society Conference a couple years ago. Once my Big Year is done, that will probably be my next biggest accomplishment.

GW - Are you interested in any other natural science areas besides birds?
BL - Not really.

GW - Do you have any other interests/hobbies?
BL - I like reading and drawing.

GW - Are any of your friends or family members birders? If not, how do you handle that?
BL - Yeah—pretty much my entire family are birders.

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?
BL - They just shrug. I guess the way to get them interested is to take them birding and have them figure out what their favorite bird is. It was when I found my favorite bird that I became more interested in birding.

GW - How could we get more young people interested in Nature?
BL - Expose them to the knowledge of threats to nature, and tell them how that affects them personally.

GW - Do you think the Internet can help foster a community of young birders, and if so, how?
BL - I think incorporating birding into social media, and having young birders post their photographs and where they sighted birds would get young birders more interested.

GW - Have you taken any birding trips out of state?
BL - **Yes—I've birded in Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Florida.**

GW - If you could go anyplace in the world to see a bird, where would you go and what bird would you look for?
BL - **I'd like to bird in Southeast Asia to see the Fairy Bluebird.**

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

BL - **I've attended 2 OYBC annual conferences, and the Bluebird Society Conference.**

GW - Besides the OYBC, what other organizations do you belong to?
BL - I belong to TaeKwonDo America; I am a second degree black belt in TaeKwonDo.

GW - Where do you go to school?
BL - I go to Linworth High School in Worthington Ohio.

GW - Do you plan to go to college, and if so, where?
BL - I plan to go to Cornell, to study Ornithology and Animal Biology.

GW - What is your dream job?
BL - To be an Ornithologist studying Chickadees.

GW - Do you have a favorite book, and if so, what is it?
BL - **I've read a lot of books! Some of my favorites are: Magyk** by Sage, Dragon Rider by Funke, and Castle Waiting by Medley.

GW - Do you have a favorite movie, and if so, what is it and why?
BL - **I don't really watch movies, but definitely not Frozen! I've heard "Let it Go" too many times!**

GW - **What's your favorite place to eat?**
BL - Japanese Steakhouse.

GW - Do you have any pets, and if so, what are they?
BL - I have a cat called September, who is slightly insane! I have two Guinea Pigs, Magnolia Rose and Sacajawea, and some fish.

GW - Do you volunteer anywhere?
BL - I volunteer with OYBC, putting up bird boxes, and helping at conferences and birding events.

GW - Are you involved with any birding projects?
BL - **My father and I are currently doing a "Photographic Big Year." The rule is, we have to take a picture of every bird we see in order for it to count.** We are currently up to 94 birds when I did this interview in early 2015. This summer, we will be taking a birding trip to Europe.

GW - Do you keep a life list, and, if so, how many birds are on it?
BL - **I don't keep a life list, although I plan to someday! I've been planning "someday" for quite a while now, but it hasn't seemed to happen.**

GW - Has becoming a member of the OYBC changed birding for you? If so, can you describe or explain how?
BL - OYBC has helped me to bird better; I have more birding skills like identifying birds by sight and sound than I did before. It has also exposed me to birding opportunities, like birding talks.

GW - Besides the monthly field trips and annual conference that we schedule, what else can the OYBC offer to their members?
BL - **I'm pretty satisfied with what OYBC does because we do a lot of fun things!**



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

As of this week, a few reports of American Golden-Plovers have already begun to trickle in across Ohio's farm fields, marshes, and mudflats. They will continue to arrive throughout the month and will stay on into mid-May. In the spring, the plovers fly north on long, tapered wings built to carry them on the long flight from their wintering grounds on the plains of southeastern South America, to their breeding grounds in the arctic tundra.

Some come as singles or in pairs, and others arrive in flocks of dozens; a few lucky birders will likely witness groups of a hundred or more. When they settle down, many are in breeding plumage. Their golden-brown upperparts and black face, throat, and belly afford them surprisingly good camouflage against a backdrop of bare ground or corn stubble. They are stunning when you are lucky enough to spot one. In their winter plumage, they can be told from the similar Black-bellied Plover by their daintier bills, more contrasting pale eyebrows, mostly tan underparts—including the

belly—mottled with paler spots, and the lack of black "wing pits" in flight. There will, of course, always be individuals in flux between plumages, and seeing the stages in the birds' molt cycles only makes watching a flock of golden-plovers even more fascinating.



American Golden-Plover
photo courtesy of Brian Zwiebel

After the ground-nesting birds raise their clutches of four in the tundra of Alaska and eastern Canada, American Golden-Plovers start on a migration very different from the one they take straight up the middle of the continent in spring. Beginning as early as late July, they will start to drift southeastward. Some of these birds will arrive in Ohio toward the end of August, and their numbers will peak about a month later before they start to head toward the Atlantic coast. Once they reach the coast, they refuel before embarking upon an extremely impressive non-stop flight over the Atlantic Ocean until they reach South America. They will spend the winter on the pampas. **In spring, they'll fly back north, and in April Ohio will once again** be graced with their presence.

RARE BIRD EXCITEMENT: MASKED BOOBY BY ANNA ROSE, AGE 14



Drawing of a Masked Booby by Anna Rose in March 2015

On February 11, 2015, I was on vacation with my family aboard the *Nieuw Amsterdam*, a ship a part of the Holland America Cruise Line. We were currently about 90 miles north of the coast of Dominican Republic, Hispaniola. Meanwhile, I was birding on the 6th floor called the *Upper Verandah* when I saw a large white bird fly past the balcony. I first assumed it was a common bird such as a Brown Booby or a gull. But I looked closer through my optics (which were permanently attached to my neck) to see a startlingly beautiful bird. It had a black face as well as a black tail, primary, and secondary feathers. I searched through my *Birds of the West Indies* field guide to see that the bird was the rare and elusive species called the *Masked Booby*. These birds are especially uncommon where I observed them in the Caribbean.

The most exciting part was to see them diving for a fish and squid dinner. In flight, they pumped their wings and quickly increased their altitude. Then, they stalled mid-air and plummeted into the water. They left trails of aqua blue water above them. I was content to watch the birds the rest of the day and into the evening. The observation of the marvelous birds are a sight I will never forget!



OYBC NE Chapter and Dr. Andy Jones pose for a group photo at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History

minutes and was a lot more complicated than I expected! However, I thought it provided a great way to learn about the anatomy of a bird. The cowbird was then stuffed with cotton and put in a special freezer. It will then be added to the

museum's
collection.

After the dissection, we took a brief walk to the **museum's**

collection. It has several thousand birds from around the world. (Wow!) The collection takes up an entire room and has hundreds of drawers in which the birds are kept. The birds in the collection date from 1835 and are extremely well preserved. Species range from tiny bee hummingbirds to albatrosses. There are also species of birds that are extinct, such as passenger pigeons and imperial woodpeckers.

Scientists and ornithologists from all over the world come to visit this collection. My personal favorite was a Northern Cardinal that was half male and half female. Soon, the museum will undergo a huge renovation, and they hope to put many of these birds in the new sections so they are accessible to the public.



Dr. Jones' assistant, Courtney, dissecting a Brown-headed Cowbird

The brutal weather made it very difficult for many people to commute to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on Saturday, February 21. However, members of the NE Chapter came to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to take a behind-the-scenes tour of their ornithology department.

Leading our tour was Dr. Andy Jones, Curator of Ornithology at the museum. He took us down to the first floor below the exhibits where the ornithology lab is located. In the lab, we saw Dr. **Jones' assistant, Courtney, dissect a Brown-headed Cowbird.** This was a bit gory for some people, so they just stood near the back of the room while the others watched the dissection. The entire dissection process took about 45



Dr. Andy Jones showing special aviary specimens to OYBC members on the behind-the-scenes tour at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History



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

2015 AWARDS FOR OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS

Young Naturalist Award

The American Museum of Natural History's Young Naturalist Award is a research-based science competition for students in grades 7-12 to promote participation and communication in science. Ohio Young Birders, Elijah Martineau and Stephen Bischoff were finalists for the American Natural History Young Naturalist Awards 2015.

Congratulations for being finalists!!

Elijah Martineau's Project:

"The Effect of a Research-based Redesign of a Bird Feeding Area on the Number and Variety of Birds Visiting the Area"



Stephen Bischoff's Project:

"Two-year Study of Daily Development of Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds"



ABA Young Birder of the Year Contest

The American Birding Association (ABA) Young Birder of the Year Contest is for young people ages 10 to 18 years old who enjoy any or all aspects of birding. Contestants can choose from the five modules to customize the contest to fit their own talents and interests. The contest typically runs from spring to fall. There are two age group categories eligible for prizes, 10-13 and 14-18. Winners receive great prizes!

The five modules in the contest: Major Modules: Field Notebook and the Conservation/Community Leadership; Supporting Modules: Illustration, Writing, and Photography.

Congratulations to our winners and finalists!!



Jocelyn Spanbauer

- 3rd Place in the Illustration Module for 10-13 year olds



Ethan Rising

- 3rd Place 10-13 Age Group Category Overall
- 2nd Place in the Conservation & Community Module for 10-13 year olds
- Tied for 2nd Place in the Photography Module for 10-13 year olds



Josh King

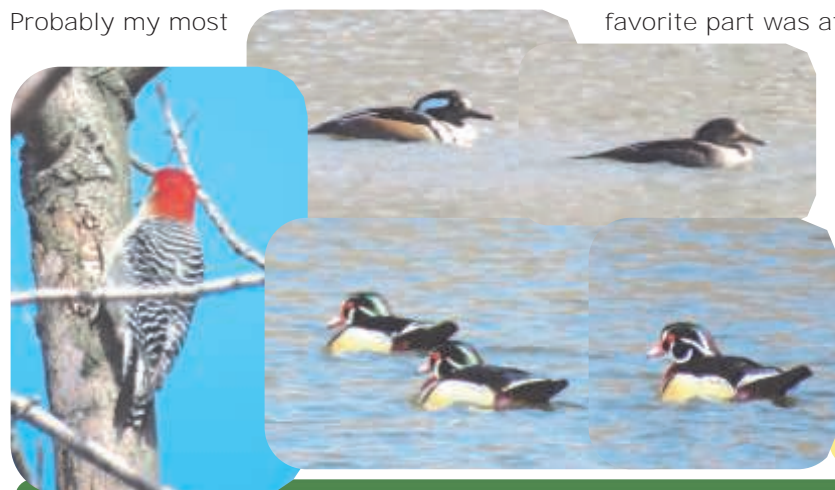
- Tied for 2nd Place in the Photography Module for 10-13 year olds

A CHILLY DAY AT SHAKER LAKES BY MIRON GOTFRYD, AGE 13

Not only does mid-winter in Shaker Lakes give you a below-zero birding experience, but it also lets you have a great look at **nature near the roads**. You may think that you won't see that many interesting birds, but that is not necessarily true. On March 28th, ten observers from the Ohio Young Birders Club NE Chapter, including me, saw some pretty interesting birds like two Hooded Mergansers, four Red-breasted Mergansers, and an American Coot! What I also thought was amazing was that we saw two Belted Kingfishers which is the most kingfishers I had ever seen. We also saw ten Canada Geese, four Wood Ducks, five Mallards, one Bufflehead, one Red-bellied Woodpecker, two Downy Woodpeckers, one Hairy Woodpecker, two Blue Jays, three Black-capped Chickadees, two Tufted Titmice, four White-breasted Nuthatches, nine American Robins, four Song Sparrows, one Dark-eyed Junco, two Northern Cardinals, five Red-winged Blackbirds, four Common Grackles, five House Finches, and six American Goldfinches. Probably my most



OYBC NE Chapter at Shaker Lakes in March 2015
Photo by Liz McQuaid



favorite part was at the end when we got to sit in the nature center and drink hot chocolate while watching birds on the feeders from the window. From what I saw and what I felt (utter frost bite) I would go out on a limb and say that going to Shaker Lakes was a very nice experience and I believe that people should go there more often, and if you have nothing to do there take out some binoculars and look at some birds!

Far left: Red-bellied Woodpecker; Top: Male & Female Hooded Merganser; Bottom: Male Wood Ducks
Photos by Liz McQuaid

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY



Veery at Magee Marsh in May 2015
by Anna Rose



Summer Tanager at Magee Marsh in May 2015
by Anna Rose

On May 9, the Holmes County Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club had an enjoyable trip to the Wayne County Marshes. At the first stop at Prairie Lane we discovered the mudflats were dried out, but we did get to see a Pied-billed Grebe. Next we hiked a trail off Messner road, some of the birds we saw were White-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Common Gallinule, Blackburnian Warbler, and a brief glimpse of a flying Pine Siskin. Later while walking along Messner road toward Moore Marsh, we spotted the bird of the day, a flying Little Blue Heron! Other good birds along Messner were, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Marsh Wren, Black-billed Cuckoo, 6+ Prothonotary, 2+ Sora's calling, and a Brown Creeper which we heard but did not see. At Wright Marsh we saw Least, and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Blue-winged Teal, and a Osprey bringing nesting material to its nest. At Shreve Lake we discovered that the lake is still partly drained making some good shorebird habitat. There we saw Greater, and Lesser Yellowlegs, 30 Least, and 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers, Dunlin, and a very tame Coot. On the boardwalk at Brown's Bog we saw a Scarlet Tanager and heard a Tennessee Warbler. Then we went to the cemetery on Schwartzwalder Road to look at the farthest eastern colony of Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels, and were rewarded with good looks at two of them. Then we went to Wilderness Road in Funk and saw 50+ American Golden Plovers, Bald Eagles, and Sandhill Cranes. Then at Valley Road back in the Hillbuck Wildlife Area, some of us got good looks at Cerulean, and Black-and-White Warblers, while the others saw a Gray-checked Thrush, bringing the total species to 106! What a great way to end a good day!



"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

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



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

~ Maya Angelou



My experience at the OYBC Gull-Crazy event was truly something to remember. Something very memorable to **me was watching the excitement on people's faces as they** discovered an interesting bird or got a good shot on their camera. For me this day seems to be all a blur because there were just so many birds and not enough time to learn them all. There was just so much excitement for one day!

On our first destination out to the pier, I found it memorable not for all the cool birds, but the bitter cold. I stood out there a good 15 minutes before I realized my group had abandoned me for the warmth of the car, so I walked back to find Darlene smiling at me, shocked that being naturally cold-natured that I had made it as long as I did. I jumped in the car finally, being the wimp I am, and we later headed off to another destination.

Another very memorable time for me was when the leader of Gull-

Crazy headed to the airport because he was determined to find me a Snowy Owl. Not only did she find one, but she found three! The fact that she took the time to find one Snowy Owl for me was truly memorable, but finding three was just an absolute treat.

Probably the most memorable and exciting moment for me was when we stopped at one of Cleveland's metroparks where we got to go out on the trails and feed chickadees. I had several that would fly onto my hand and sit there eating the seed. For those few moments that those chickadees would sit on my hand, I felt like a princess. A princess, you wonder? As confusing as that seems, there is a simple explanation. If you have ever seen Beauty and the Beast, there is a scene where the beast is eagerly trying to get backyard birds to jump in his hand and eat the seeds, but he isn't being patient enough. So Belle just lays his hands on the ground and

soon enough the birds are all over him and Belle. She looks so graceful as she is feeding those birds in the winter **weather with snow all over the ground; it's just truly** beautiful. So like I said, I felt like a princess feeding those chickadees out of my hands! I felt beautiful and graceful.

Lastly, the other quite memorable thing with the chickadees was when I was about to head back with our group to the little nature lodge they had, when I looked over and there was a family, (a mom, dad, two dogs, and two little boys, one probably about age 7 and the other probably about age 4). The little boys asked their parents what we were doing, so I told them we were feeding birds and asked them if they wanted to feed them. They ran over with excitement, and I gave them the seed out of my

hands and told them they had to hold very still and be very quiet because the birds weren't like their dogs. They were wild and scared of us. It took about all of a minute for the older boy to get one on his hand. The smile on his face was priceless. But as for the little one, he kept moving around and talking so eventually he got

frustrated and wanted to give up, but I told him, "Let's try one more time," so he held his hand very still and what do you know? A chickadee instantly came to him and sat there for a few seconds. His little

smile made me so happy! To think that I could teach him a lesson of having patience pays off and there is beauty and excitement in nature -- it was just truly a great experience. I loved everything about this trip and would like to thank everyone who put it together and led it.

Thank you, everyone, for giving me a truly amazing birding experience.



"...Something very memorable to me was watching the excitement on people's faces as they discovered an interesting bird or got a good shot on their camera. For me this day seems to be all a blur because there were just so many birds and not enough time to learn them all. There was just so much excitement for one day!..."

- Savannah Carter

In April 2014, my family had the exciting opportunity of seeking out many interesting birds in Florida! One of the first life birds we saw were the protected Burrowing Owls, which live only in South America, Mexico, some areas of the Southwestern U.S., and Florida. Several pairs make their home near the ballpark on Pelican Boulevard in Fort Myers, FL, digging into the sandy ground to excavate the burrows that give them their name. They are small, compact, dusty brown owls with white speckling overall. They have deep-set yellow eyes, and long, strong legs built for digging.

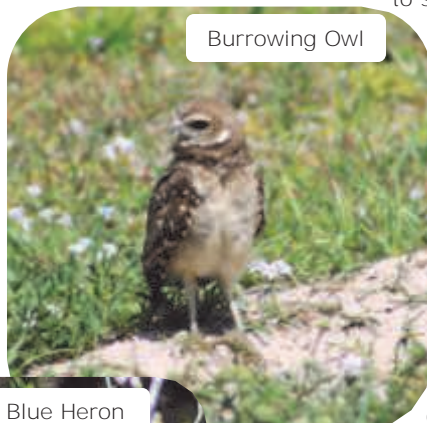
Another uncommon species we saw at that location was the Monk Parakeet. A large colony of the birds had made a communal nest in the depths of a tall lamp post overlooking the ballpark. Introduced into the U.S. in the 1960s, these successful parrots are the size of Mourning Doves- bright green doves, that is! They have white foreheads and chins and pink bills.

A location which we had especially anticipated birding at is Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. On the first day we spent there, we went to a large observation tower overlooking a river and got an exciting look into the daily lives of several water birds! A beautiful female Green Heron was squatting on top of her nest, probably with eggs underneath her! Her green-patterned back was well camouflaged **among the leaves, and we probably wouldn't have seen her if she hadn't been spotted by someone** already. I had never given much thought to what the nests of herons were like before; but I could clearly see that the Green Heron makes flimsy-looking stick nests in trees. Then we spotted a white wading bird hanging out in the thick mangrove trees by the **water's edge. Its bill was half pale gray and half dark gray (at the end), and strangely enough, it had pale-green legs!** A more experienced birder told us that it was an immature Little Blue Heron. The adults are a blue-gray overall with gray legs- a sharp contrast to the young bird before us!

Suddenly there was a blur of movement in the semi-clear water. As we watched, an Anhinga swam gracefully underwater across the river to a perch on the other side. The Anhinga is a common **southern species known locally as "water turkeys" or "snakebirds"**. Although the bird we were watching was swimming entirely **submerged, the "snakebirds" got their unusual nickname by** sometimes gliding through the water with only their long neck and head showing! The Anhinga slid out of the river and onto a low, **overhanging tree branch, where it displayed its species' habit of** spreading out the wings to dry off and regulate temperature. As we gazed at it, a movement in the water caught our attention. A **formidable alligator was hungrily following the Anhinga's exact**

path! Thankfully, its quarry had been too fast for it by about 15 seconds!

The next day we visited Ding Darling and we did the Wildlife Drive to search for the rare Mangrove Cuckoo.



Burrowing Owl

Although we never found our cuckoo, we added many other species to our list that day! As we slowly drove down the trail, we saw many other cars and people on the side of the road, looking at something. We pulled off as well, and quickly asked what they were seeing. Other excited birders pointed out a well-camouflaged Yellow-crowned Night-heron in the trees! These shy, beautiful herons are more slender than their stocky relatives, the Black-crowned Night-herons. They have gray

bodies and necks with orange legs. Their heads are black with a yellowish, long-plumed crown and a white cheek stripe. Their eyes are strikingly red and their bills are black.

As we continued driving along, we saw two strikingly blue birds on the ground beside the road. Much to our



Immature Little Blue Heron

Anhinga



excitement, one of them was a Blue Grosbeak! I had wanted to see this beautiful grosbeak for a long time, my only concern being that if we did see one, we might confuse it with an Indigo Bunting. There was no chance of that here because there was one of each



Yellow-crowned Night-heron

species side by side! The Blue Grosbeak was a darker blue than the Indigo Bunting and had two reddish-brown wing bars. It also had a much larger beak (hence the name) than the Indigo Bunting, and it had a much more pronounced black mask like that of a Northern Cardinal. If I ever **see one again, I know I won't confuse the species after this** experience!

Another cool life bird we saw was the Magnificent Frigatebird. We only had a view of it flying far above us, but OH, could it fly! It spiraled up...and up... and up, until it disappeared into a cloud! It was way too far away to see any color, but it had a very distinctive shape from below. Its wings were held in a flattened M-shape, and it had a long, deeply forked tail.

A ranger at Ding Darling kindly pointed us to the Ding Darling Bailey Tract, a separate piece of land belonging to Ding which is closer to the Gulf of Mexico than the rest of the park. A pair of Black-necked Stilts had been spotted there recently. After a brisk mile hike along a pond created by a system of dikes, we arrived at the location of the stilts! They were some of the most beautiful **birds I've ever seen, with a striking pattern of black and white and** extremely long, bright pink legs! In fact, Black-necked Stilts have the longest legs compared to their body size of any bird except the flamingo! Occasionally, one of the birds would decide to sit on the ground, having to carefully and comically fold up its long legs to do so!

The next exciting birding location we went to was the Everglades National Park! We walked the Anhinga Trail hoping to see some rare birds. Everyone up here knows the common Turkey Vultures, but in the South, the Black Vulture is also present. They are much more handsome than the Turkey Vultures, having black feathers overall with a black-skinned head and beady brown eyes. In flight, they can be distinguished by large silvery patches on the underside of their wings. This species was gathered in large numbers at the Anhinga Trail. Recently, these playful birds have developed a very bad habit of eating rubber parts like **weather stripping off of visitors' cars! Many people, including us,** covered their cars with tarps and blankets to ward off feathered vandals, but in some places the vultures were tearing right **through the tarps! Thankfully they didn't have an appetite for** Honda Odyssey that day, and we could enjoy them without irritation. Due to the large numbers of people coming to the park, the vultures are quite used to humans, and sat calmly on the railing next to the trail. We were able to get some great close-up pictures!

True to its name, the Anhinga Trail is home to many Anhingas. This trip, we learned how to easily tell the difference between males and females. The females have pale heads and necks, while the males have fluffier necks which are dark like their bodies.

A beautiful bird we had been especially hoping to see is the Purple Gallinule, a rail which is a year-round resident in Florida. We were lucky enough to see one of these unique birds as we watched the water off the Anhinga Trail! Their slightly iridescent color is simply stunning, ranging from deep purple on their head and breast, to blue and turquoise on their shoulders, then bronze on their wings! Their bill is mostly red, with a whitish yellow tip, and a powder-blue frontal shield. Their legs are long and bright yellow, with long, spread-out toes which can spread **out the bird's weight and enable it to walk on lily pads!**

Although we saw no other life birds that day, as we walked a boardwalk through the wetland we came upon quite an interesting sight! A multitude of black, lumpy alligators (seventeen to be exact) were snoozing together in the shallow water as a Great Blue Heron tiptoed around them! Happily, they were all sleepy and probably full, and the heron had unrestricted passage through the marsh.

We especially enjoyed Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. I had really been hoping to see the colorful Painted Bunting. Southern Florida was in its winter range in April, and there was a chance that we might find one at locations they were regularly seen at such as Corkscrew. It turned out that it was much easier to see one at Corkscrew than we had thought! We saw brightly colored males and drabber females before we had even left the

Blair Audubon Center! These beautiful birds are seed eaters, and they happily stayed at the **Center's feeders for us to admire.**

The males have royal blue heads with bright red throats, eye-rings and undersides. Their shoulders are bright yellow-green, and their wings are darker green. The females are green overall.

We walked the boardwalk through the forests and wetlands and saw some great things! There was a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest in a stand of trees that we got to see. A Barred Owl sat on a low tree limb and stretched, giving us some great pictures! But the highlight of the walk by far was an American Bittern by the water which I spotted myself! We stayed until closing time enjoying ourselves walking and birding.

I had a great time experiencing **Florida's unique wildlife on our** trip in April. Sadly, many other spots in Florida that were once ideal for bird habitat are now **buried under human "habitat."** Some creatures have adapted to the cities, such as the

Burrowing Owls and Monk Parakeets in Fort Myers, but others, like the Black-necked Stilts and Purple Gallinules, need untouched wild places to survive in Florida. Most of the places I visited were formed in the same way--

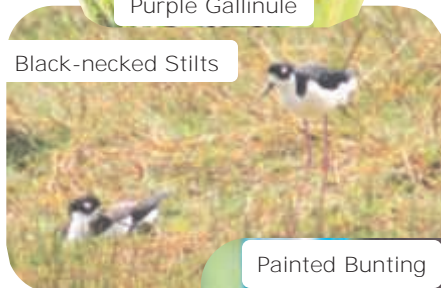
by nature-loving people and organizations realizing the danger of habitat loss and working together to set aside land before it was too late. Unfortunately, **human development isn't** restricted to the saltwater coasts. Lake Erie itself has many

developed areas surrounding it where birds and other critters

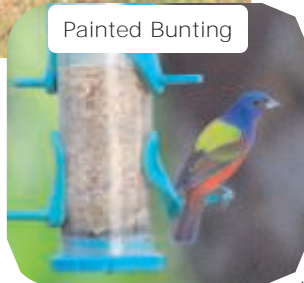
should be feeding and breeding instead. I don't have anything against humans and our many constructions, but often we are all too careless where we decide to build. There are many people who enjoy observing wildlife without thinking about how their everyday life makes an impact on the environment. If enough of us realize how we affect nature, then we can work together to find new ways for humans and animals to coexist, each in their own habitat. , I challenge you, as members of OYBC, to find ways to promote the awareness of habitat loss and conservation in your own area!



Purple Gallinule



Black-necked Stilts



Painted Bunting

American Coot
American White Pelican
Anhinga
Bald Eagle
Baltimore Oriole
Barred Owl
Black Vulture
Black-and-white Warbler
Black-bellied Plover
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Black-necked Stilt
Blue Grosbeak
Blue Jay
Blue-winged Teal
Boat-tailed Grackle
Brown Pelican
Burrowing Owl
Carolina Wren
Cattle Egret
Common Gallinule
Double-crested Cormorant
Downy Woodpecker
Dunlin
Fish Crow
Glossy Ibis
Gray Catbird
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron
Indigo Bunting
Laughing Gull
Least Tern
Lesser Yellowlegs
Limpkin
Little Blue Heron
Magnificent Frigatebird
Monk Parakeet
Mottled Duck
Mourning Dove
Northern Cardinal
Northern Mockingbird
Northern Parula
Osprey
Painted Bunting
Palm Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe
Prairie Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-breasted Merganser
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull
Roseate Spoonbill
Royal Tern
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Sandwich Tern
Snowy Egret
Swallow-tailed Kite
Tricolored Heron
Western Kingbird
White Ibis
White-eyed Vireo
Willet
Wood Duck
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

**OYBC field trips listed on the events calendar are open to all OYBC student members.*

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 NE Chapter
Nature at Night with Lisa Rainsong
Friday, August 14th
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Frohring Meadows
(16780 Savage Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023)

We'll meet Lisa Rainsong at Frohring Meadows in Geauga County for a "Nature at Night" program, focusing on the sounds of the surrounding field, pond and wetland. Check out ohioyoungbirders.org for more information!

OYBC Central Chapter
Installation of Tree Swallow Grid at
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
Saturday, August 15th
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
(14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449)

Check out ohioyoungbirders.org for more information!

OYBC NW Chapter
Shorebirds of NW Ohio
Saturday, August 29th
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
LOCATION: TBD

Northwest Ohio is a great area to view shorebirds during their fall migration. Every year the best location to view shorebirds tends to change. Various flooded fields can be a good spot to look but it depends on the late summer rainfall. Some Ohio Division Of Wildlife Areas manage for shorebirds and draw down their water levels, but this also depends on their current management plan and how much summer rain has fallen in the area. We will do some scouting before the field trip to find the best shorebird spot!

If you need a ride we will carpool from Olander Park (Sylvania, OH). Please meet us at Olander Park by 8:15 AM. We plan to arrive to the Ottawa NWR/Magee Marsh area by 9:30 AM.

Things to bring with you:
Binoculars/Camera
Water
Snacks
Bug Spray

Please RSVP to OYBC Advisors Robin Parker at rparker@olanderpark.com or Patty Toneff at patty.toneff@historic-woodlawn.com



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

OYBC Central Chapter
Birds of Clear Creek Metro Park
Saturday, September 5th
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Clear Creek Metro Park
(185 Clear Creek Rd, Rockbridge, OH 43149)

Please go to ohioyoungbirders.org for more details!

OYBC NW Chapter
Lake Erie Metropark Hawkfest
Saturday, September 19th
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Lake Erie Metropark (Brownstown Charter Twp, MI)

Each September, tens of thousands of Broad-winged Hawks pass over the park, which is designated as an important bird area and one of the premier hawk watching sites in North America. The Broad-winged Hawk migration peaks during mid-September. At least 16 different raptor species have been recorded during the fall migration season. Typically, 200,000 birds of prey migrate over Lake Erie Metropark from September through November on their southward journey

Annual OYBC BIG SIT Fundraiser!!
October 2015

Each year, OYBC members seek pledges and donations for our annual BIG SIT fundraiser to help support the OYBC! What's a "BIG Sit"?

We hang out in a 15 foot diameter circle and try to identify as many birds that we see and hear. Like a walkathon, people can donate to the OYBC by pledging an amount for every species seen during the event. Everyone is welcome to join us and help count birds! All you need to bring is your packed lunch, snacks, water, and binoculars! Please dress for the Ohio weather.

Please go to ohioyoungbirders.org to find the location of your local OYBC Chapter BIG SIT!

Save the Date!
9th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference
Saturday, November 7th

The conference is the keystone event for The Ohio Young Birders Club. The event includes presentations by student members, a keynote address by a regional, national, or international youth conservation leader, and field trip outings. Because it's such a special event, the conference draws participants from throughout Ohio and many other states. If you are interested in being a speaker or giving a poster presentation, download our OYBC Conference Speaker Proposal Form at ohioyoungbirders.org and submit the form to Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

THE OYBC SHOUT OUT PAGE

WELCOME TO ALL OF THE NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS

as of June 30, 2015

STUDENT MEMBERS

Evan Seurkamp
Angela Yu
Nathan Miller
Mariana Thomas
Helen Willmer
Elizabeth Drake
Zoe Katherine Drake
Jacob J. Miller
Michael Lee Miller
Philip Andrew Hershberger
Adriana Losey
Miron I. Gotfryd
Ryan Johnson
Tomas Padegimas
Jason H. Miller
Jake Hower
Erin Rankin
John Mark Hershberger

ADULT SUPPORTERS

Jianlan Sun
Debbie Riggs
Paul Lunn
Julie Reeves
Tim Piai
Marci Hower



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

Thank you to all of our OYBC SPONSORS!

Canton Audubon Society

Association of Ohio
Garden Clubs

Columbus Audubon Society

Kaufman Field Guides

Kirtland Bird Club

Ohio Ornithological Society

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Audubon Club

Zeiss

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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 - MERLIN
___ \$100 - AMERICAN KESTREL

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL OYBC BIG SIT
FUNDRAISER during the first &
second weekend in October

Help your local chapter
get pledges & donations for our
annual BIG SIT fundraiser to
help support the OYBC!
For more information, check out
ohioyoungbirders.org



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 a 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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Ohio Young Birders Club
New or Renewal Membership

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If Student, Date of Birth: _____

☐ 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 - Supporting Adult

☐ \$ 100 to \$1000 - Sponsorship Level

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