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"
Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

Statewide Coordinator
Laura Guerard

Chapter Coordinators
Lindsey Dukles, Northeast
Michael Hershberger, Holmes-Wayne Co.
Paul Hershberger, Holmes-Wayne Co.
Liz McQuaid, Northeast
Ann Petrushka, Central
Maura Rawn, Central
Debbie Riggs, Southwest
Darlene Sillick, Central
Mike Sustin, Northeast
Patty Toneff, Northwest
Bev Walborn, Northeast
Alicia Wilhelmy, Southwest

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.
13551 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
419-898-4070

Email: info@ohiyoungbirders.org

Visit us at:
www.ohiyoungbirders.org
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Hallie Mason Memorial Scholarship for Young Birders

Beloved Ohio birder, Hallie Mason, left us on September 11, 2017, after a brief battle with GlioBlastoma. Hallie’s grandmother, Glenna Peoples, fostered in her a spirit of independence and a love of nature which years later developed into a passion for birding. In Ohio birding circles, she was well known for her volunteer work at Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO), in the local Amish community as a proficient birder/mentor, and as a former hospice worker. All who knew Hallie appreciated her keen intelligence, caring professionalism, vibrant personality, and her commitment to encouraging and supporting young birders. BSBO was supremely honored to be named the recipient of donations in Hallie’s memory. Per her family’s wishes, we have created the Hallie Mason Memorial Scholarship Fund for Young Birders. These funds will provide support for young birders in Ohio to attend camps, conferences, and other educational programs that foster their interest in birds and the natural world.

Visit www.ohiyoungbirders.org/scholarships for an application form, or call BSBO at 419-898-4070, and we will mail you a form.

Theodore A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship

The Theodore "Ted" A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT), provides financial assistance for OYBC members ages 14–18 to attend Camp Chiricahua, VENT’s flagship summertime youth birding camp.

Camp attendees do not need to be expert birders but should have an interest in natural history study and observation.

VENT youth camps present a rare opportunity for young naturalists to be in the field with their peers and with expert leaders. One scholarship will be awarded each year. Funds for the scholarship are provided by an anonymous donor.

Visit www.ohiyoungbirders.org/scholarships or call BSBO at 419-898-4070, for more information.

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 www.ohiyoungbirders.org/scholarships for an application form, or call BSBO at 419-898-4070, and we will mail you a form.
Ready to test your Bird ID skills?
Challenge yourself to enhance your ID skills with the monthly OYBC Bird ID Quiz!
Correct submissions are eligible to win birder swag!
*Must be an OYBC member to be eligible to win a prize.*
www.ohioyoungbirders.org, or mail in to BSBO c/o: Laura Guerard

Meet Oscar, this month’s guest Bird ID Quiz creator!
Left: Oscar with the Tamaulipas Crows in the background, Brownsville, Texas. He has currently seen 534 birds in the lower 48 states.

2018 MAY/JUNE BIRD ID QUIZ:
“Spring Sparrows”

Directions:
Identify each species.
Hint: Sparrow #4 can only be found at a few locations in the state of Ohio.

During Spring Migration birders are excited to see warblers, flycatchers, and shorebirds, but sparrows get far less attention. Not all sparrows migrate, but some do. This month’s photo quiz focuses on sparrows that return to Ohio in the spring.

GOLDEN-WINGS
Many thanks to all those who contributed to the newsletter. Special thanks to:
Matthew Kappler
Travis Kaye
Mervin Miller
Anna Rose
Mitchell SanGregory
Eliza Jane Thomas
Oscar Wilhelmy

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:
Laura Guerard

GOLDEN-WINGS Editorial Team: Jasmine Cupp, Ryan Jacob & 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 August 1, 2018

Email:
info@ohiyoungbirders.org

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

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Cover Photo:
Welcoming spring in Magee Marsh, the “Warbler Capital of the World.”
GOLDEN-WINGS (GW) – What got you interested in birds, and in what year did you start birding?

Travis Kaye (TK) – When I was 9 (2013), my mom took me to Point Pelee in Canada. It was the end of spring migration and we saw Cedar Waxwings, Wild Turkeys, and Yellow Warblers. I immediately became interested in birding and began asking my mom to take me to more places to see birds. I officially started birding the next year in 2014 when my mom took me to Point Pelee again. This time we visited earlier in May, and we saw amazing birds like Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers. I was hooked! I have been actively birding since.

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

TK – My mom is probably my biggest mentor and hero. She was the one that got me into birding. We often travel together and go places to see birds. Another birding mentor I have is Tim Nowicki, a retired naturalist and birder. For the past 2 years, I have done the Detroit Audubon Christmas Bird Count with Mr. Nowicki. He has given me good advice about taking my time with bird identification and taking notes. In addition, since becoming a member of OYBC, I have spent some time with Ryan Jacob and Ashli Gorbet on field trips and at the BSBO banding station. I have learned a tremendous amount about birds from them.

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

TK – This is a very hard question because there are so many cool birds I have seen and so many still to see. If I had to name one it would be the American Kestrel because they are beautiful and fierce. I also love Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers because they were the birds that got me hooked on birding.

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

TK – My favorite place to bird is probably Magee Marsh, because there is a lot of diversity and you never know what you’re going to find. Closer to my home in Michigan I like to go to Lake Saint Claire Metropark and Belle Isle.

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

TK – My nemesis bird is the Barred Owl. I have tried to see this bird multiple times but have not yet been successful. The closest I have been to seeing one was this past December in Florida when I heard 2 calling back and forth to one another. My mom and I jumped out of the car and seeing one was this past December in Florida when I heard 2 calling back and forth to one another. My mom and I jumped out of the car and searching but no luck.

GW – So far what would you say is your greatest accomplishment in birding?

TK – My greatest accomplishment in birding is having been awarded the Detroit Audubon Hog Island Camp Scholarship for the summer of 2017. This was a great experience, and I feel it is my best accomplishment so far.

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

TK – I am interested in the impact of humans on the environment and on animals and birds.

GW – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

TK – I play soccer on a travel soccer team and I enjoy it. I also play cello in the high school orchestra.

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

TK – My mom is an avid birder and she takes me places to bird. My brother is not a birder, but I don’t really mind. None of my friends at school are birders, but I have made several birding friends at camps who I have kept up with and have even birded with during the school year.

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?

TK – Some people don’t understand why I like birds and they think it’s weird, while others think it’s very interesting that I bird. Overall most people just don’t understand. One way I am trying to change people’s views is through Instagram. I have an Instagram account where I post my bird photos. I currently have have over 1,000 followers. My account name is savage_birder for anyone who wants to follow me.

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

TK – I am starting a Birding and Nature club at my high school and I plan on creating more of a young birding community there.

GW – Do you think the internet can help foster a community of young birders? How?

TK – I absolutely think the internet can help foster a community of young birders. In my opinion, it is already doing so. For example, on my Instagram account, I follow several young birders who also follow me. We share our photos and experiences and I have communicated with several them.

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

TK – I have taken trips to Ohio and Canada plenty of times. I have also taken trips to Colorado, Maine, Arizona, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, California, Florida, and Delaware and have birded while there often with my mom.

GW – If you could go anywhere in the world to see a bird, where would you go and what bird would you look for?

TK – I would probably go to New Zealand to see the Kiwis there. They are very endangered and they are very funky-looking birds that are really hard to find.

GW – Have you attended any birding conventions or conferences? Which ones?

TK – I have attended the Ohio Young Birders Conference and have also attended The Biggest Week in American Birding. I also have gone to birding camp in Hog Island, Maine; Lewis, Delaware; and in Estes Park, Colorado. This summer I am attending Camp Chiricahua in Arizona.

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

TK – I am a member of the Detroit Audubon Young Birders Club. My family and I belong to Detroit Audubon, Michigan Audubon, National Audubon, as well as the American Birding Association/ABA.

GW – Where do you go to school?

TK – Berkley High School in Berkley, Michigan.
GW – Do you plan to go to college, and if so, where?
TK – I definitely plan on going to college and, to be honest, I don’t really know where I would want to go. I would like to go to a school that has a good ornithology program.

GW – What is your dream job?
TK – Doing research on birds and recording data on birds. I would like to do a job that involves bird banding, traveling, and doing surveys on bird populations.

GW – What is your favorite book, and what makes it your favorite?
TK – My favorite book is probably Kingbird Highway, by Kenn Kaufman. The thing that makes it my favorite book is the constant adventure that the main character experiences, and I understand a lot of things he talks about in the book relating to birds. Also, I learned a lot of new facts about birds, nature, and life on the road.

GW – What is your favorite movie, and why is it your favorite?
TK – The Shrek series are some of my favorite movies because I like the adventure in the movies. I have watched these movies multiple times and they always entertain me. They make me laugh.

GW – What’s your favorite place to eat?
TK – I love this place to eat called The Redcoat Tavern in Royal Oak. I like to order the Piedmontese Burger.

GW – Do you have any pets, and if so, what are they?
TK – I have 2 Beagles named Lewis and Tyler. I also have two 2 cats named Ruby and Teddy.

GW – Do you volunteer anywhere?
TK – I volunteer at the Bird Center of Washtenaw County, an organization that rehabilitates birds. I usually feed the birds and clean their cages. Many of the birds are babies that fell out of their nests and people bring them into the center. Some are larger birds that have had window strikes or injuries. I really enjoy working with this organization. I also volunteer with PeerCorps Detroit and Kesher, a community-based program that connects teens in the suburbs with the Detroit community. A few weeks I went to a center in Detroit to help younger kids with their homework.

GW – Do you keep a life list, and, if so, how many birds are on it?
TK – I don’t keep a life list. However, last year I kept a list of species I saw. I saw more than 300 bird species in 2017.

GW – Has becoming a member of the OYBC changed birding for you? If so, can you describe or explain how?
TK – Becoming a member of the OYBC definitely has changed birding for me. All of the trips I have gone on with OYBC have taught me new ways to find birds and I have made new friends as well.

GW – Besides the monthly field trips and annual conference that we schedule, what else can the OYBC offer to their members?
TK – I think OYBC is doing great and shouldn’t change anything because they are doing the right thing. I have learned so much about birds from the OYBC and I have made many new friends.

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**YOUNG BIRDER CAMPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Chiricahua • SE Arizona • 12 days • Ages 14-18 • Session I: July 11-22, 2018</td>
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<td>Session II: July 15-26, 2018</td>
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<td>Camp Cascades • Pacific NW • 12 days • Ages 14-18 • July 27-August 7, 2018</td>
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<th>Cornell Lab of Ornithology</th>
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<td>Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens • Hog Island, ME • 6 days • Ages 14-17 • Session I: June 11-16, 2018; Session II: June 18-23, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Camp • Hog Island, ME • 6 days • Ages 8-13 • August 12-17, 2018</td>
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<td>Camp Colorado • Estes Park, CO • 7 days • Ages 13-18 • Session I: June 23-29, 2018</td>
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<td>Session II: July 3-9, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Avocet • Lewes, DE • 7 days • Ages 13-18 • July 28-August 3, 2018</td>
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Illustration by Nathan Martineau, 2013
OYBC Central Chapter members enjoyed an outing at The Wilds in January.

Central OYBC group at the Jeffrey Overlook with founders of the Rogue Birders - Christopher Collins, Dr. Jeffrey Peters, and Alex Eberts.

Photos right and below by Anna Rose.

At the Jeffrey Overlook at The Wilds looking for the Golden Eagle.

“[We] even got to go to a rhinoceros barn and pet baby rhinos!!! They were sooooo cute!”

-EJ Thomas
On March 3rd, 10 of the Holmes-Wayne Chapter members and our advisor, Paul Hershberger, went to The Wilds in Muskingum County. At our first stop, we had over 120 Ring-necked Ducks on a pond. We then drove on to the observation deck where we had a great view. First, we saw Northern Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks. Soon after that, we saw our first Golden Eagle from very far away. We had seven species of raptors at that stop. We also had two Trumpeter Swans circle a few times before they left. So on we went, down the road until we got to another good viewing spot. Soon we had another Golden Eagle and other raptors at a distance.

After The Wilds, we went to Seneca Lake to look for the Common Raven that was seen for a couple weeks, but we didn’t find it. We found all three species of mergansers and one of the scoter species. We found eight species of waterfowl and a Tree Swallow. From there we went to Salt Fork State Park to look for Purple Finches that had been coming to the feeders there but we didn’t find any. We were also looking for the shrike that has been seen there but had no luck. We then went on to another spot at Salt Fork Lake where we found Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, and Wood Ducks. Then we headed for home and on the way, Paul spotted a Red-shouldered Hawk sitting on powerlines which most of us got to see.

We ended up with 51 species for the day: the highlights being one of the scoter species, the Golden Eagles, and a Red-Shouldered Hawk. It was a very nice and interesting day! Thanks to Michael and Paul Hershberger for their time in planning for our chapter field trips. - Mervin Miller, Maysville, OH

OYBC Members Present to Boy Scouts of America

Matt Kappler and Mitchell SanGregory shared their bird knowledge with a local Boy Scout troop that was working to earn their Bird Study Merit Badge. It is wonderful to see OYBC members serving as representatives for the club while sharing their passion for birds and nature.

Thank You for taking the time out of your busy schedules to help another youth organization!

Left: female Gadwall, Right: The Northern Shoveler’s large spoon-shaped bill is adapted for sifting large amounts of water. These dabbling ducks occasionally work together in groups while swimming in a tight circle, rotating like a ‘pinwheel’, while skimming the water for food particles.
Which Woodpecker? By Mitchell SanGregory

A Hairy Woodpecker, at a glance, might look just like a Downy Woodpecker. But, with a closer look, their differences become rather obvious. In this picture, you can clearly see that not only is the Downy’s body small, his bill is tiny as well. Then shift your eyes onto the Hairy. You’ll probably first see how his bill is very large. In fact, it’s longer than his own head! Also, the Hairy is about twice the size of the Downy. And from what I’ve seen in my birding adventures, Downys seem to be much more abundant than the larger Hairy.

Their calls are rather different too. A Downy’s call is a sharp, high-pitched “peek,” while a Hairy’s call sounds more raspy and deep, like a Red-bellied Woodpecker. The Downy, in the breeding season, also has a trill, or a descending rapid call. In general, a woodpecker’s trill is essentially the equivalent to a songbird’s song. The Downy’s trill is about the same pitch as its call, but it is fired off in a rapid, PEEK PEEK Peek peek peek peek pee ee ee eek, while a Hairy’s sounds a lot like a Northern Flicker’s maniacal-sounding trill. So the next time you’re looking at either a Downy or a Hairy, look closer and listen! It might not be what you think it is!

Trivia Answers: yes, Tufted Puffin, Ostrich booms are repeated several times at short intervals and are typically used to proclaim territory and are audible from nearly two miles away, a charm of goldfinches, Vaux’s Swift that only weighs 1/2 grams (0.6 oz).
Artist Spotlight: Anna Rose

My drawing of a Eurasian Magpie was inspired by a school exchange trip to France last year. It was a cool summer day and on a particular Normandy beach I saw a gorgeous black and blue magpie watching me from a tall pine tree. He cawed and leered at me along with the rest of his "parliament"— another name for a group of magpies— as I eagerly snapped his picture. After I returned home, I quickly sketched him in pencil and spent another six hours shading his luxurious feathers. The result is a snapshot of a beautiful bird and homemade gift for my wonderful host family.

Avian Trivia

Do swifts have flat skulls?

Which American bird is known as the “old man of the sea”?

Which bird produces a loud trisyllabic booming roar that has been compared to the roar of a lion?

What is a gathering of goldfinches called?

Which is the smallest North American swift, and how much does it weigh?

(Answers at the bottom of page 8. Source: 10,001 Titillating Tidbits of Avian Trivia by Frank S. Todd)

Congratulations to the 2018 Scholarship Recipients!

Theodore A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship
Helena Souffrant • VENT’s Camp Chiricahua

John F. Gallagher Memorial Scholarship Fund
Oscar Wilhelmy • ABA’s Camp Colorado
Hannah Thomas • Audubon’s Coastal Maine Bird Studies

Hallie Mason Memorial Scholarship for Young Birders
Adriana Losey • ABA’s Camp Colorado

Thomas Coltman Memorial Scholarship
Mariana Thomas • Audubon’s Family Camp on Hog Island
Mitchell SanGregory • Audubon’s Coastal Maine Bird Studies

Visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org/scholarships or call BSBO at 419-898-4070, for more information.
*OYBC field trips listed on the events calendar are open to all OYBC student members. Additional field trip information is available at www.ohioyoungbirders.org. To register for any of these events, or for more information, please contact BSBO at 419-898-4070.

**BIRDING SAFARI**
**SW CHAPTER**
**DATE:** Saturday, April 28, 2018  
**TIME:** 8:00 AM - 12 Noon  
With Miami Valley Christian Academy Young Birders at the Cincinnati Nature Center. Two teams will compete to identify and photograph the most species.

**MENTOR MARSH & MENTOR HEADLANDS**
**NE CHAPTER**
**DATE:** Sunday, April 29, 2018  
**TIME:** 7:30 AM - 12:00 NOON  
**LEADER:** Becky Donaldson

**THE BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING**
**DATE:** Friday, May 4 to Sunday, May 13, 2018  
**Festival HQ:** Maumee Bay Lodge  
Visit www.bwiab.com for details

**YOUNG BIRDER WALKS: BIRDING THE FAMOUS MAGEE MARSH**
**DATE:** Saturday, May 5 and Saturday, May 12, 2018  
**TIME:** 9:00 AM - 12 Noon  
**LOCATION:** Meet at the east end of the Magee Marsh Parking Lot

Each year, the OYBC offers 2 young birders walks at Magee and it’s always a blast! Join young birders from all over the state and the country and meet some really cool field trip leaders, too! No need to be an Ohio Young Birders Club member to join in the fun. Young birders of all ages are welcome! Saturday, May 5th, Golden Eagle expert Dr. Trish Miller and field guide author Richard Crossley will be joining the walk. Saturday, May 12th, noted authors Kenn Kaufman and Steve N.G. Howell will participate.

**WARBLER WATCH AT SHAWNEE LOOKOUT**
**SW CHAPTER**
**DATE:** Saturday, May 5, 2018  
**TIME:** 7:30 - 10:30 AM

**BIRDING FERNALD PRESERVE**
**SW CHAPTER**
**DATE:** Sunday, May 20, 2018  
**TIME:** TBD  
**LEADER:** Brian Wulker

**OPTICS FLING**
**DATE:** Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2, 2018  
**LOCATION:** Time & Optics in Millersburg, Ohio  
Join OYBC and BSBO staff and volunteers for guided young birder walks during the festival. There will also be optics vendors, raffles, and birding organization booths to explore.

**BIRDING OAK OPENINGS**
**NE CHAPTER & NW CHAPTER**
**DATE:** Sunday, June 10, 2018  
**TIME:** 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**
**12th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference**
**Saturday, November 3, 2018**
**Columbus, OH**

The revolutionary OYBC Conference provides a unique opportunity for student members to address an audience of their peers with professional presentations on birding and/or conservation topics of their choosing. In addition to the student presentations, the OYBC Annual Conference includes fabulous raffle prizes, lunch, optic raffles, and a bird ID quiz led by noted author Kenn Kaufman with assistance from OYBC members. The OYBC Conference is a great way to meet young birders from all over, and to see what unique opportunities the OYBC can provide!

This is an event for the whole family! You do not have to be a member to attend, and adults are encouraged to attend too!

**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!
WELCOME TO ALL OF THE
NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS!

as of April 1, 2018

STUDENT MEMBERS
Brian Hershberger
Freddie Allen Hershberger
Benjamin Hershberger
Samuel Mast
Cora McGowan
Nicholas Miller
Gabriel Miller
Diane Paoletti
Robert Wood
Elijah Yoder
Kyle Yoder
Marvin R. Yoder
Marcus L. Yoder

ADULT SUPPORTERS
Lindsey Dukles
Eli Hershberger
Anna Kozlenko
Dave Rawn
Rob Wood
Levi A. Yoder

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

Annual OYBC Big Sit & Big Day Fundraiser

Our goal in 2018 is to raise $1,600 to help fund statewide trips and participation in conservation projects and regional young birder conferences!

For more information, please visit the Annual BIG SIT fundraiser page at www.ohiyoungbirders.org

Golden-Wings Publication Schedule 2018-2019

Spring 2018 Submission Due Date: March 1, 2018
Summer/Fall 2018 Submission Due Date: August 1, 2018
Winter 2019 Submission Due Date: November 1, 2018

Please email or mail submissions to:
BSBO, 13551 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449
info@ohiyoungbirders.org, subject line: “Golden-Wings Submission”

Thank You to all of our OYBC SPONSORS!

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The Wilderness Center
Time & Optics, Ltd.
Toledo Naturalists’ Association
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)
Zeiss

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

We would like to see your name here!
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)

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, OH 43449