



OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

SPRING 2019

ENCOURAGING, EDUCATING, AND EMPOWERING
OUR YOUTH CONSERVATION LEADERS



During The Biggest Week in American Birding, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory organizes two Young Birder Walks. These walks are always a blast and attract young birders of all ages from across the US. On Saturday, May 11, participants were joined by Jason Ward and his crew as part of his YouTube web series, *Birds of North America*. Not only that, the group crossed paths with the Mayor of Toledo, Wade Kapszukiewicz, who was also birding the famous Magee Marsh Wildlife Area with Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman. For more highlights from the 10th Anniversary of The Biggest Week in American Birding, please see pages 8-9.

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Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

Statewide Coordinator

Laura Guerard

Chapter Coordinators

Jamie Cunningham, Northwest

Maria Dellapina, Central

Amy Downing, Northwest

Alex Eberts, Statewide

Warren Grody, Central

Michael Hershberger, Holmes-Wayne Co.

Paul Hershberger, Holmes-Wayne Co.

Liz McQuaid, Northeast

Kelly Milewski, Northwest

Ann Petrushka, Central

Debbie Riggs, Southwest

Darlene Sillick, Central

Emma Strick, Northeast

Mike Sustin, Northeast

Patty Toneff, Northwest

Bev Walborn, Northeast

Katie Ware, Northwest

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@ohioyoungbirders.org

Visit us at:

www.ohioyoungbirders.org

www.bsbo.org

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/ohioyoungbirders



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OYBC SCHOLARSHIPS

New Scholarship from



Kevin Loughlin, Wildside Nature Tours owner, presented Laura Guerard, BSBO's Education Director, with a \$1,000 scholarship fund check during the Biggest Week in American Birding. This new scholarship will provide financial assistance for OYBC members to attend Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens on Hog Island. This scholarship is especially meaningful as Laura created the camp when she worked for Maine Audubon and feels ecstatic that so many young birders have had this life-changing experience. Heartfelt thanks to Kevin and his team at Wildside Nature Tours for supporting young birders with this incredible scholarship fund and opportunity.

The first scholarship will be awarded in 2020; the scholarship guidelines and application forms will be available online in the near future.

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.

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.

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 full scholarship (camp tuition and travel) will be awarded each year. Funds for the scholarship are provided by an anonymous donor. The scholarship will be awarded in February.

Visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org/scholarships
for more information on scholarship opportunities, application forms,
or call BSBO at 419-898-4070, and we will mail you a form.

Welcome New Advisors!



Amy Downing, Northwest Co-Advisor

Amy Downing is currently a recruiter for ADP Recruitment Process Outsourcing and an administrative assistant at Peterman Associates Architects and Surveyors in Findlay, OH. She is active in planned giving and volunteerism and currently serves as NW Regional Director for Ohio Ornithological Society and previously served as the At-Large Director on the non-profit board Blanchard River Watershed Partnership. Amy has been an active member of Hancock County Naturalist Club for the past six years, and is a dedicated volunteer for Black Swamp Bird Observatory's The

Biggest Week In American Birding. Amy is passionate about the natural world and spending time with her family. She is looking forward to learning with and from the OYBC members.



Emma Strick, Northeast Co-Advisor

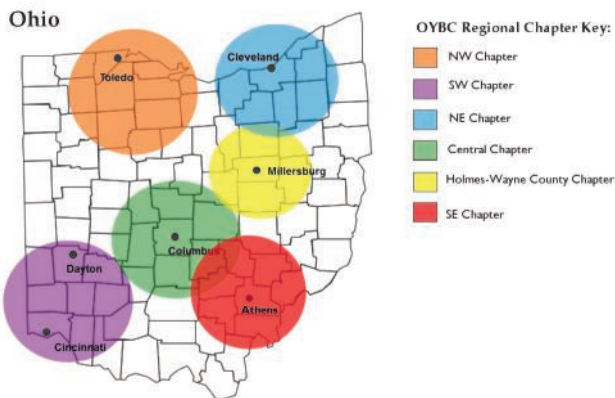
Emma Strick is a naturalist for Cleveland Metroparks at Rocky River Nature Center. She provides educational programs for people of all ages on a wide range of topics including geology, insects, plants and so much more. She graduated from Marietta College in 2017 with a B.S. in Environmental Science. Her love of birds was sparked while working at the Glen Helen Raptor Center in Yellow Springs, OH, where she worked with a pair of Barred Owls named Ari and Grinnell. Emma is a native Northeast Ohioan and is super excited to have moved back to the area. When she is not at work, Emma

spends most of her time with her four pet rats (Lizzie, Luna, Molly, and Charlie). Emma is looking forward to working with and learning from Ohio's young birders!

Looking to make a difference in the lives of young birders?

OYBC Advisors encourage, empower, and educate young naturalists to ensure our future has strong conservation leadership.

Contact Laura Guerard for more information: lauraguerard@bsbo.org or 419-898-4070



Young Birders Network

The **Cornell Lab**
of Ornithology



<https://ebird.org/about/resources/for-young-birders>

GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Gautam Apte
Alex Burke
Parker Garver
Elizabeth Kanzeg
Josh King
Adriana Losey
Samuel Mast
Anna Rose
Ethan Rising
Katelyn Shelton
Ervin Weaver
Tim Weaver

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:

Laura Guerard

GOLDEN-WINGS

Editorial Team: Ryan Jacob & Karen Zach

The GOLDEN-WINGS

editors are happy to receive for newsletter consideration your:

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

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is August 15, 2019

Email:

info@ohioyoungbirders.org

Mail:

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

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Cover Photo:

OYBC sponsored Young Birder Walk: Birding the Famous Magee Marsh during the 10th Anniversary of The Biggest Week in American Birding, May 11, 2019.

OYBC BIRD ID PHOTO QUIZ: “WHOSE FEET?”

Ready to test your Bird ID skills?

Challenge yourself to enhance your ID skills with the monthly OYBC Bird ID Quiz!

Photos courtesy of OYBC NW Chapter Advisor, Jamie Cunningham

Directions:

Identify the bird species that belongs to each pair of feet.

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



1



2



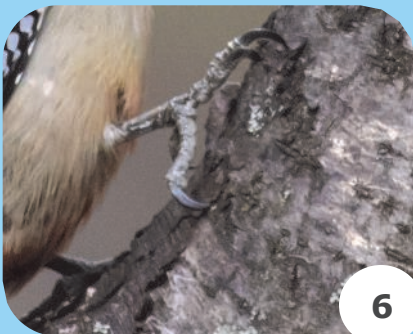
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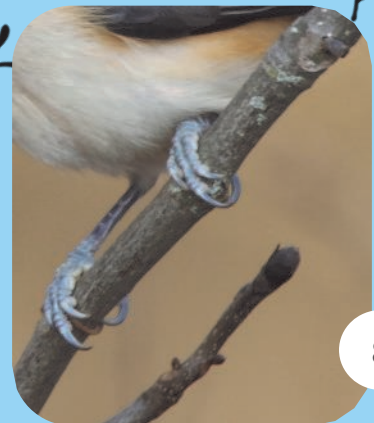
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6



7



8

April/May Quiz Answers: “Warbler Wings”

1. Blackburnian Warbler, 2. Black-and-white Warbler, 3. Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4. American Redstart, 5. Yellow Warbler, 6. Golden-winged Warbler, 7. Prairie Warbler, 8. Northern Parula

Congratulations to the 2018 Scholarship Recipients!

Theodore A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship

Josh King • VENT's Camp Chiricahua

John F. Gallagher Memorial Scholarship Fund

Katelyn Shelton • Audubon's Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens

Hallie Mason Memorial Scholarship for Young Birders

Tyler McClain • Teen Week in Costa Rica, sponsored by Hog Island Audubon Camp and ABA

Kaylee McCaskey • Cornell Lab Young Birder Event

Adriana Losey • VENT's Camp Chiricahua

Travis Kaye • ABA's Camp Cascades

Raúl Castro-Dean • ABA's Camp Colorado

Gautam Apte • Champions of the Flyway, ABA-Leica Sub-adult Wheatears

Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) Scholarship * Awarded by OOS

OOS is proud to announce that Raúl Castro-Dean was awarded a scholarship for the 2019 ABA's Camp Colorado!

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

YOUNG BIRDER CAMPS

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)

Camp Chiricahua • SE Arizona • 12 days • Ages 14-18

Session I: July 10-21, 2019; Session II: July 17-28, 2019

Camp Cascades • Pacific NW • 12 days • Ages 14-18 • July 27-August 7, 2019

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Young Birders Event • Ithaca, NY • 4 days • Ages 15-18 • July 11-14, 2019

Audubon

Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens • Hog Island, ME • 6 days • Ages 14-17

Session I: June 9-14, 2019; Session II: June 16-21, 2019

Family Camp • Hog Island, ME • 6 days • Ages 8-13 • August 5-10, 2019; August 11-16, 2019

American Birding Association (ABA)

Camp Colorado • Estes Park, CO • 7 days • Ages 13-18

Session I: July 27-August 2, 2019; Session II: August 6-12, 2019

Camp Avocet • Lewes, DE • 8 days • Ages 13-18 • July 27-August 3, 2019

Looking for a fun summer camp to
learn about nature & birds?

Are you interested in exploring new
areas & making lifelong friends?

Check out the summer youth camps
on the OYBC website :

[http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/
youth-birding-camps.html](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/youth-birding-camps.html)



Illustration by Nathan Martineau, 2013

YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE: JOSH KING

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

Josh King (JK) – I've always had a passion for wildlife since a very young age, but I started birding specifically around age 8.

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

JK – While I have acquired much of my birding knowledge on my own, more experienced birders such as Kenn Kaufman have significantly helped me expand my knowledge of birds. In fact, the very first field guide I ever got was the Kaufman Field Guide to the Birds of North America and I spent countless hours studying that book and others like it in my first few years of birding.

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

JK – My favorite bird would have to be the Great Gray Owl. I love all species of owls, but the Great Gray Owl in particular has always been my favorite bird species. Ever since I started birding, I found this species to be stunning both in its appearance and as a hunter in its boreal forest home.

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

JK – I have been fortunate to travel to many amazing birding locations, but my favorite place to bird would have to be the Grand Lake region. I've spent my entire life here and have birded it for many years. While it is not as popular or well known as other areas in Ohio, I've still been fortunate to find many rare species here such as Black-necked Stilt, Least Tern, Red Knot, Hudsonian Godwit, Laughing Gull, Golden Eagle, and Red-necked Grebe.

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

JK – There are many birds I would love to see some day, but the one I want to see most is my favorite bird, the Great Gray Owl.

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

JK – Although I've placed second in the ABA Young Birder of the Year Photography Module, my greatest accomplishment for me personally was discovering the first successful breeding record of Black-necked Stilts in Ohio a few years ago in 2017. I had been watching a pair of these birds almost every week for several months at Mercer Wildlife Area hoping they would have young, and I was



very excited when I discovered that they did!

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

JK – In addition to birds, I enjoy studying and photographing all wildlife in general, especially reptiles, amphibians, and fish. I also enjoy fishing and studying the different species I catch.

GW – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

JK – I have several hobbies besides birding, but some of my favorites are fishing, wildlife photography, hockey, running, and hiking.

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

JK – I have a few friends that are birders like myself, but the majority of my friends are not. And while not everyone in my family enjoys birding as much as I do, they still enjoy seeing some of the rare and exciting species we see in Ohio as well as on vacation.

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?

JK – In my experience, most people my age are not birders and would probably never go birding, but most of my friends and people my age that I know enjoy seeing my photos and learning about cool species they never heard of.

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

JK – I believe that young birders clubs like the OYBC can have a significant impact on getting more young people into birding, but I think that simply getting kids outside to experience nature can spark an interest in birds and wildlife.

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

JK – I think the internet can make it much easier to create a community of young birders as it makes communication with young birders across the country possible. Using social media sites like Facebook has made it possible for me to communicate with several young birders that I would rarely (if ever) get a chance to talk to outside of the internet.



...YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE CONTINUED

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

JK – I have taken several trips outside of Ohio and have been fortunate to visit some great birding locations including Maine, Colorado, Utah, Florida, and even a short trip to Peru. Some of my favorite species I've seen on these trips include Atlantic Puffins, Burrowing Owl, California Condor, Snowy Plover, Inca Tern, Golden-collared Toucanet, and Koepcke's Hermit.

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

JK – Besides the Great Gray Owl I mentioned earlier, I would one day like to travel to Africa to see the many Bee-eater species, Pennant-winged Nightjar, and Secretarybird.

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

JK – I have attended many of the OYBC conferences since I first became a member years ago. I have also attended the Biggest Week in American Birding (BWAB) Festival every year since I was about nine years old.

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

JK – I am also a member of the American Birding Association and have been since 2014.

GW – Where do you go to school?

JK – I have been homeschooled since fourth grade.

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

JK – As of now, I have not decided on a college yet, but there are several that I am currently considering.

GW – Do you have a job somewhere?

JK – I am currently working at a local car repair shop and I also run a small lawn care business with my brother.

GW – What is your dream job?

JK – My dream job would be working as a wildlife photography guide in different areas around the world.

GW – What is your favorite movie, and why is it your favorite?

JK – I don't have a favorite movie, but there are several that I enjoy watching like "The Lord of the Rings", "Star Wars", and "Jurassic Park."

GW – What's your favorite place to eat?

JK – I personally enjoy most Mexican and Italian restaurants.

GW – What are your favorite blogs?

JK – I enjoy various informative wildlife photography blogs.

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

JK – I have three pets: one dog, a rabbit, and a Bearded Dragon.

GW – Do you volunteer anywhere?

JK – I have volunteered as a guide for the BWAB and have also volunteered to help with duck banding at Mercer Wildlife Area. In addition to that, I have also been a volunteer for several trash pick-ups for roads and parks in my local area.

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

JK – When I was in 4-H, I gave presentations about the various bird species found in Ohio.

GW – Are you involved with any birding projects?

JK – While I am not currently involved with any official birding projects, I have been conducting my own projects such as monitoring the small group of Black-necked Stilts that breed in my area and locating rare and new bird records for my county. In recent years I have found several first records for many species in Mercer County and hope to continue doing so for many years.

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

JK – As of now, my life list is currently at 501 species, but with my upcoming trip to Arizona, I hope to acquire over 50 lifers.



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

JK – Becoming an OYBC member has had a significant impact on my life. It has allowed me to meet many people who love birds and wildlife like I do. It also has given me the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge about birds over the years, and I am very grateful for that.

GW – Besides the monthly field trips and annual conference that we schedule, what else can the OYBC offer to their members?

JK – The OYBC offers so much with its field trips and annual conferences, but it also offers a chance for young birders to expand their knowledge of birds and an opportunity to meet others their own age that have a similar interest in birds.

GOLDEN-WINGS is always on the lookout for Ohio Young Birders Club members to interview! If you are interested in being one of our featured Young Birder Profiles, contact the Ohio Young Birders Club at info@ohioyoungbirders.org

10TH ANNUAL BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS



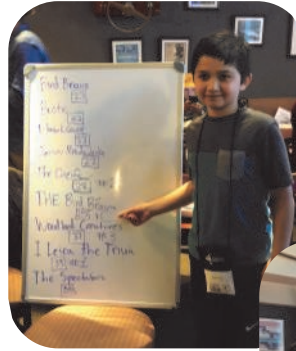
BSBO organized two young birder walks during the festival, drawing over 30 young birders from across the US. We were joined by special guests including Jennie Duberstein, Richard Crossley, and Katie Fallon. On Saturday, May 11, our walk was accompanied by Jason Ward and his film crew from the web series *Birds of North America* on YouTube!



BIGGEST WEEK CONTINUED...

With Gratitude...

It is with our most heartfelt thanks that we acknowledge the kindness and generosity that Zeiss Sports Optics and Time & Optics bestow on the Ohio Young Birders Club. Donations collected by the team at Zeiss over the course of the festival raised \$1,200 to support the club! But the support didn't stop there! Zeiss also made a pledge that for each VICTORY SF Binocular that was purchased through Time & Optics Ltd. during the month of May, ZEISS Birding would donate a TERRA ED 8x32 to the Ohio Young Birders Club. Thanks to this very special promotion, the OYBC will receive as many as 20 pairs of TERRA binoculars!! We will use a portion of the optics for service learning and giving back to our community that shows the OYBC such tremendous support.



TRIVIA NIGHT

Young Birders brought their game to Trivia Night! Top Left: Sammy, a second year trivia attendee, is thrilled with the placement of his team "THE Bird Brains." Top Right: The Chiefs scored second place, only a one point difference from 1st place. (Teammates left to right: Eddie Kasper, Michael Gray, Liz Gordon, Oscar Wilhelmy, & Ben Sanders.)

I debated not going on a walk that evening, but I am very glad I did. My friends and I took an evening stroll at the Maumee Bay boardwalk. We were casually walking, tired from our long day of birding. We were just chatting and observing migrants. I debated going back to the lodge because our friend Ben had stayed behind and I felt bad for just leaving him. Max convinced me to keep going, and I did. We hit an active area and Travis goes, "That's a weird looking warbler." Max, Oliver, and I instantly get on the bird. We all had a bit of an "omg" moment. Oliver shouts, "That's a Townsend's Warbler!" We were frantic. We began to get the word out after Max and I snapped photos. The issue was that half our phones were dead. We took turns reporting and contacting people and staying on the bird. People began rolling in. It was madness. People were smiling and congratulating us. The energy off the crowd was something I had never experienced before. We stuck around for a while helping people get on the bird and telling our story. I hope to never forget the moment with some of my closest friends.



That is one of the many stories I have from this year's Biggest Week In American Birding. I had the wonderful opportunity to be up at the lake for a total of seven days. I was reunited with some of my closest friends from other states and made many new ones. This year was by far the best Biggest Week I have ever had, and I am so grateful for every moment of it.

Adriana Losey, OYBC Central Chapter



Townsend's Warbler fever strikes and birders flock to the Maumee Bay Boardwalk. Above: Kenn Kaufman talking with young birders during the Birder Prom and reviewing the Townsend's Warbler photos. Left: The young birders who first found the warbler on 5/10/19 (left to right) Simon Tolzmann, Ben Sanders, Adriana Losey, Max Nootbaar (ABA's 2019 Young Birder of the Year), Oliver Burrus, & Travis Kaye.

OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY CONFERENCE



Emcee Elizabeth Kanzeg

Hello, I am Parker Garver and I attended the Annual Ohio Bluebird Conference on March 2, 2019 in Ashland, OH. I am eleven years old and am a young birder who is very interested in public speaking. But, enough about me, let me tell you about my experience at the conference.

I loved when Robin Bailey from Cornell University talked about the decline and increase in certain cavity nesters across our country. When speakers (mostly young birders) talked about setting up their own bluebird trail with boxes, I was inspired to create my own bluebird trail around my home. I was truly fascinated with the work of Julie Zickefoose who works with and draws baby birds and decided that I should follow my passion and turn it into a career.

I loved that conference and you will, too, whether you are a bird watcher or not. The conference had things for lots of ages, with science all the way to pure bird comedy. There was even a song! That conference was a learning experience hiding under a plain good time!

Parker Garver, OYBC Central Chapter

OYBC presentations included poster projects by Anna Rose, Katelyn Shelton, Hannah Thomas, and Dani Price, oral presentations by Anna and Katelyn, and our own Elizabeth Kanzeg served as the Emcee! It was a proud day for the OYBC! Other presenters included thanks to the OYBC for their volunteer support though service learning that helped make their projects a success!

Below from Left: Anna Rose shares Project Bluebird and some of her artwork. Young birder attendees, including OYBC alumni, who wanted to strike the classic pose in celebration of the day. Thank you Brad Thomas for capturing the day in photographs!



19TH ANNUAL SHREVE MIGRATION SENSATION

Saturday March 30, 2019

We started at 6:30 a.m., gathered everybody and headed for Cemetery Road where we were supposed to meet the other group of the Holmes-Wayne County OYBC Chapter. We were also scheduled to be the spotters at Cemetery Road. For those of you that don't know what I mean by spotters, those were people stationed at different locations around the Killbuck Wildlife Area and Funk Bottoms to help people find and identify the birds.

At Cemetery Road we saw Ring-necked Ducks, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, and over a hundred American Coots. We also had a Swamp Sparrow close by, and I also saw my first Purple Martin here.

Some of us stayed at Cemetery Road to act as spotters while the rest of us went to Wilderness Road, the observation deck off of State Route 95, Prairie Lane, and Wright Marsh. At Wilderness Road, we saw Red-breasted, Hooded, and Common Mergansers; Blue and Green Winged Teal; Northern Pintails; and Double-crested Cormorant. We did not see the Greater White-fronted Geese at Prairie Lane but we did see a Lesser Yellowlegs sandpiper. At Wright Marsh we saw all of the expected species: Greater and Lesser Scaup, Canvasback, and American Wigeon. Although we did not see a Eurasian Wigeon we did see a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest.

We then headed back to Cemetery Road where we had left the others, gathered everybody and headed for Shreve United Methodist Church Activity Center where they had some very interesting speakers. We got to hear Laura Kearns share the results of a migration study on Sandhill Cranes. We also heard Dave and Jen Brumfield talk about some of their birding experiences. I thought it was very interesting.

We had a very fun day, and I want to thank the Holmes-Wayne County Chapter Coordinators Michael and Paul Hershberger for all the effort they put into the fieldtrips.

Ervin Weaver, Holmes-Wayne Co. Chapter

Shreve Migration Sensation

This peak spring bird migration event includes self-guided tours with experts located at help stations in the nearby Killbuck Marsh, Shreve Lake, Force Rd, Cemetery Road and Funk Bottoms wildlife areas, Ohio's largest inland natural wetland complex, covering 5,671 acres.

Michael Hershberger and the OYBC Holmes-Wayne Co. Chapter members served as volunteer spotters at the Cemetery Road help station. The chapter also invited all OYBC members attending the event to join them for a morning of birding their favorite local hot spots.



OYBC Advisors and members along the Cemetery Road stop at the Killbuck Marsh during Shreve Migration Sensation (The Daily Record, Wooster, OH. Sunday, March 31, 2019).

KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE AREA

Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Wintering Owls & Hawks OYBC Statewide Field trip on Saturday, February 9, 2019, attracted excited birders from all chapters to icy Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area eager to spy winter favorites like Merlins and pheasants. Despite the BSBO "bird bus" refusing to start, the young birders, unwilling to miss out, divided into smaller carpools. Creating a train of cars, we drove to all the best Killdeer Plains hotspots, hopping out whenever someone noticed a bird and communicating via walkie-talkies. There was some discussion as to whether the Northern Bobwhite spotted under the shelter of a roadside plant was a pet, but we enjoyed observing it anyway. Stopping by a frozen-over pond, we watched as a flock of Tundra Swans skidded onto the ice. The flock included one lovely pair performing a courting dance. We scoured a patch of woodlands for the elusive owls but found only pellets. As the sun began to set, we reconvened at headquarters and began to pack up. Just as groups began to leave, a beautiful Short-eared Owl made an appearance in a nearby field. The rapidly increasing dark and distance made photographing the owl difficult, but everyone agreed—it was a perfect finale to a wintry day of birding.

Elizabeth Kanzeg, OYBC Central Chapter



Clockwise starting top left: Northern Bobwhite, Tundra Swans performing a courting dance, young birders and advisors work together to spot birds, watching and waiting for owls at dusk. Photos by Katelyn Shelton



February Hotspots

On February 9, the OYBC Holmes-Wayne County Chapter took a birding field trip to a few local places. It was a cold, but nice day.

Our first stop was at the Gorge Overlook at Mohican State Forest. Soon we found a Red-breasted Nuthatch and ended up seeing at least 20. We also saw a White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.

From the Gorge Overlook, we walked to the houses and feeders to look for Evening Grosbeaks. We saw Pine Siskins and other common birds, but no Evening Grosbeaks. We watched for 45 minutes and most of us were half frozen when Michael Hershberger yelled "Evening Grosbeaks!" We all looked up to see seven Evening Grosbeaks fly over. They landed in some trees and soon flew to the feeder where we had very good looks at them. They were lifers for all of us except Michael.

After seeing the Evening Grosbeaks, we drove to the covered bridge. We saw Common Goldeneyes on the river. We also went to Pleasant Hill Lake Dam, but didn't see anything there.

From the dam, we went to Old Shreve Road and looked out over Killbuck Marsh. We saw a few Canvasbacks and Lesser Scaup, but nothing really rare.

On the way to Prairie Lane, we came to Willow Road, which has closed because of high water, so we had to detour. Prairie Lane was also flooded, but the driver was brave and drove through anyway. We saw Common Mergansers, Goldeneyes, and some other ducks.

On the way out, while driving through the water, we hit a big bump and Ervin Weaver let out a scream. He thought he really was a goner. We all had a good laugh. We had a total of 44 species for the day.

Samuel Mast, OYBC Holmes-Wayne County Chapter



Nature Photography session with Brian Zwiebel of Sabrewing Nature Tours at Castalia Pond.
Saturday, February 23, 2019

PARKER'S TEXAS TRIP

My family and I took a ten-day trip to Texas from March 23 to April 1, 2019. We went to lots of great birding centers and had lots of fun. We racked up a total of 204 species—I gained 72 lifers and our highest day count was 121 species. I went out with great guides like Javier Gonzalez and Mary Beth Stowe. The one bird that got away (my nemesis bird) was the... Green Kingfisher. I went to all the places people recommended but came up empty. I guess that gives me a reason to go back!

Our Itinerary:

Day 1 - We drove from Laredo, Texas, to Fulton near Aransas NWR. Favorite Lifers: Yellow-headed Blackbird, Crested Caracara, Harris's Hawk, Curve-billed Thrasher, Bronzed Cowbird, Pyrrhuloxia, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.



Day 2 - Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and Goose Island State Park. Favorite Lifers: Whooping Crane, Reddish Egret, Neotropic Cormorant, Long-billed Curlew, Black Skimmer.

Day 3 - Laguna Atascosa, South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, Bay Access Mudflats and Valley Land Fund Lots. Favorite Lifers: Common Pauraque, Green Jay, Long-billed Thrasher, Gull-billed Tern, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Wilson's Plover, Sandwich Tern.

Day 4 - South Padre Island. Favorite Lifer: Louisiana Waterthrush.

Day 5 - King Ranch, Norias Division and Brownsville-Oliveira Park. Favorite Lifers: Audubon's and Hooded Orioles, Verdin, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, White-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Greater Roadrunner, Green Parakeet, White-fronted and Red-crowned Parrot.

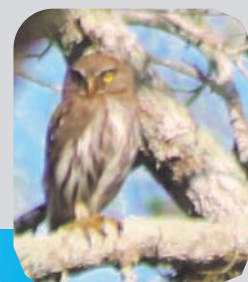
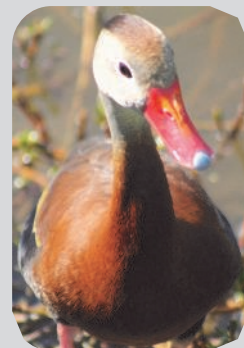
Day 6 - Sabal Palm Sanctuary, Brownsville Landfill and Resaca De La Palma State Park. Favorite Lifers: Altamira Oriole, Tamaulipas Crow, Franklin's Gull, Least Grebe.

Day 7 - Quinta Mazatlan World Birding Center, Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park, Monte Cristo Tract. Favorite Lifers: Plain Chachalaca, Clay-colored Thrush, Swainson's Hawk, Gray Hawk, Eared Grebe, Ringed Kingfisher, Elf Owl.

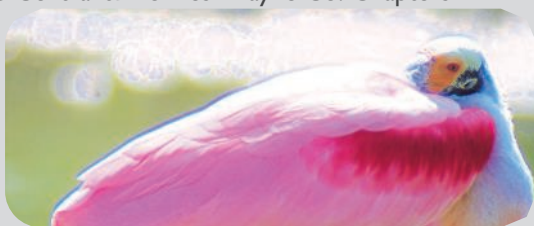
Day 8 - Estero Llano Grande State Park and Santa Ana NWR. Favorite Lifers: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, White-tailed Kite.

Day 9 - Edinburg Scenic Wetlands, Salineño Wildlife Preserve. Struck out on Green Kingfisher, but we did get a Clay-colored Sparrow.

Day 10 - Zapata City Park, San Ygnacio Bird Sanctuary. Struck out on Morelet's Seedeater and Red-billed Pigeon.



Parker Garver, Age 11
OYBC Central & Holmes-Wayne Co. Chapters



Photos clockwise from side left: Banded Whooping Crane at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks showed no fear at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center. Sign at the base of a bridge leading to Port Isabel from South Padre: Well: we aren't in Ohio any more, Dorothy. After hearing this Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl calling at King Ranch, Norias Division, I finally saw him after about 20 minutes. Couch's Kingbird enjoying a grasshopper "McNugget" at King Ranch. A Fulvous Whistling-Duck sat patiently on a log by a Little Blue Heron long enough for me to point him out to a large group of "Winter Texans" at Estero Llano Grande State Park and World Birding Center outside of Weslaco. Roseate Spoonbill resting at Estero Llano Grande State Park.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On Wednesday, May 8, we got picked up at 7:00 a.m. and headed to The Wilderness Center where we met the other van load. We first birded along the Sugarcreek Trail. After walking a short distance we suddenly heard a Blue-winged Warbler singing. We went on down the trail and had some nice looks at a Gray-cheeked Thrush on the trail. We were down by the creek when Michael Hershberger heard a Summer Tanager give his call. The Summer Tanager gave us some beautiful looks.

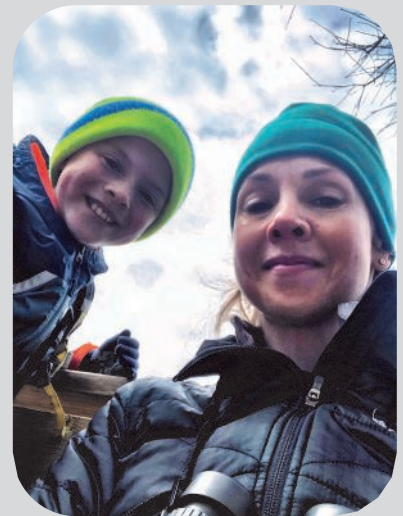
After we finished walking the Sugarcreek Trail, we went up to the Pond Trail where we hoped to get a Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Warbler. We did not see a Pine Warbler, but we did see the Red-breasted Nuthatch on the Wilderness Walk. We ate our lunch and then headed back on the Wilderness Walk where we had a Kentucky Warbler give us some nice views. We went over to Pioneer Path where we had a Barred Owl.

Around 1:00 p.m., we headed over to the Beach City Dam and saw some Yellow-throated Warblers. After we were at the Beach City Dam, we went to Kaylon Road to look for the Henslow's Sparrow that some of the members had in a field. There we got a Grasshopper Sparrow, but we did not see the Henslow's Sparrow.

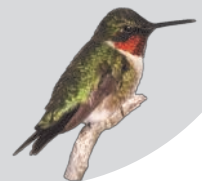
After we looked for the Henslow's Sparrow, we went to Dundee Fields where we hoped to find a Prairie Warbler but we had no luck. Dundee Falls was our last place to look for a Louisiana Waterthrush. We stopped at L.E. Sommers on the way home to look for the Eurasian Collared Dove which nest in Kidron. We ended up having 104 species of birds (22 warblers) for the day.

I want to thank Michael Hershberger for all the hard work he puts in for the field trips.

Tim Weaver, OYBC Holmes-Wayne Co. Chapter



Alex Burke, OYBC NE Chapter, took his mom out birding at his favorite hotspots during The Biggest Week in American Birding. Thank you parents and mentors for supporting your young birders!



This spring, I was given the incredible opportunity to join a team competing in the Champions of the Flyway (COTF) competition, an annual Big Day competition held in southern Israel. For those of you who don't know, COTF serves as an international conservation fundraiser, with teams generating donations for a different conservation issue each year. This year's fundraising was targeted for Nature Kenya, a BirdLife International partner focused on stopping illegal mass killings of endangered vulture species in Africa's Rift Valley. With the help of many donors, and a generous contribution from BSBO and the OYBC, the competition was able to raise over \$70,000 for these vultures, some of which we were able to see during our time in Israel!



Gautam (middle) with his ABA-Leica Sub-adult Wheatears teammates.

I competed on the ABA-Leica Sub-adult Wheatears team sponsored by Leica Sport Optics and the American Birding Association, with two other college-aged birders. After four days of scouting the competition playing field, we started at midnight on race day, and didn't stop birding for the next 23 hours and 51 minutes.

We ended with 134 species, which was a good total given our limited scouting time and the unseasonably wet weather, which made birds a lot harder to find. We were happy with both our race result and, more importantly, the \$5,000 we were able to raise for efforts to preserve Rift Valley vulture populations.

This was an awesome experience, and I highly recommend donating to a Champions team of your choice this coming year. Their collaborations with underfunded organizations are crucial for international wildlife, and it was great to be able to support these conservation efforts!

Gautam Apte, OYBC Alumnus



Ethan Rising, OYBC SW Chapter member, attended a semester at Conserve School - a program designed to inspire environmental stewardship. Conserve School is located just west of Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin, on the Wisconsin - Upper Peninsula Michigan border.

Conserve School is for students who have demonstrated a genuine interest in the natural world and who are motivated to conserve it. This semester-long immersion in environmental studies and outdoor activities deepens students' love of nature, reinforces their commitment to conservation, and equips them to take meaningful action as environmental stewards. (www.conserveschool.org)

Ethan has presented at the Ohio Young Birders Conference multiple times and even conducted the Kaufman ID Quiz, serving as Kenn Kaufman while Kenn was on a book tour. We were excited to see that Ethan's talents were highlighted at Conserve School as one of the emcees during a program event. His mom, Liz, commented that the OYBC is the reason that Ethan is so comfortable with public speaking. *Way to go, Ethan!*

Original Painting by Anna Rose

"Turnstone on a Stormy Day"

by Anna Rose depicts the gorgeous male Ruddy Turnstone on the shores of Lake Erie before his epic flight into Canada. This is Anna Rose's first acrylic piece and to this day, also her favorite. She created the piece while studying wildlife painting at a professional artists' workshop in Dubois, Wyoming, in September of 2018.



Beaver, Pine Marten, and Sharp-tailed Grouse
Conserve School, Land O' Lakes, WI
by Ethan Rising

Photography by Ethan Rising



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 is available at www.ohioyoungbirders.org. To register for any of these events, or for more information, please contact BSBO at 419-898-4070.*



JULY

PURPLE MARTIN NEST CHANGE

CENTRAL CHAPTER

DATE: Monday, July 1, 2019

TIME: 5:00 PM

LOCATION: We will gather in the Safari Golf Course parking lot on Powell Rd across from the Columbus Zoo/Zoombezi Bay entrance at 4853 Powell Rd, Powell, OH 43065

RSVP by Sunday June 30: Darlene Sillick, dsillick118@gmail.com

FAMILY POTLUCK PICNIC

NE CHAPTER

DATE: Tuesday, July 2, 2019

TIME: 5:00 – 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Willow Bend Picnic Shelter at Rocky River Reservation
Bring your family to meet the OYBC Advsiors, meet new members, and see old friends! We will tell birding stories from spring migration, make plans for our upcoming outings, and bird the picnic area. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a dish to share – either a side dish or a dessert.

GROWING UP WITH HOWARD MARSH KAYAK TRIP

NW & NE CHAPTERS

DATE: Sunday, July 14, 2019

TIME: 9:00 AM – Noon

12 Kayaks available

COST: \$25 per person

You may pay online at

www.ohioyoungbirders.org/calendar-of-events

or send a check to:

Attn: Laura Guerard, BSBO 13551 W. St. Rt. 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

*Please write OYBC NW Chapter Kayak in the subject line on check.

RSVP Required:

NW Chapter to Patty Toneff, patty.toneff@historic-woodlawn.com

NE Chapter to Bev Walborn, bjw@clevelandmetroparks.com

AUGUST

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH BRIAN ZWIEBEL

NW CHAPTER

DATE: Saturday, August 24, 2019

Photography session with Brian Zwiebel of Sabrewing Nature Tours. We will focus on shorebirds.

RSVP: Jamie Cunningham, jmc200903@yahoo.com

NIGHTHAWKS

NE CHAPTER

DATE: Saturday, August 31, 2019

Location and time TBD

SEPTEMBER

OLD WOMAN CREEK STATE NATURE PRESERVE

NW & NE CHAPTERS

Huron, OH

Details TBA

OCTOBER

OYBC BIG SIT / BIG DAY FUNDRAISER

Please visit the OYBC Big Sit/ Big Day page for details.

EMERALD NECKLACE BIG DAY

NE CHAPTER

DATE: Sunday, October 6, 2019

TIME: 8:00 AM

Meet at Wendy Park

BANDING SAW-WHET OWLS ON KELLEYS ISLAND WITH TOM

BARTLETT

NE CHAPTER

Details TBA

NOVEMBER



13th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference Saturday, November 9, 2019 Toledo Zoo & Aquarium Toledo, OH

Please visit the annual conference page on the website for upcoming details and to submit a Speaker Proposal Form to present or to serve as a Kaufman ID Assistant. To receive a printed copy of the Speaker Proposal Form by mail please call Laura Guerard, 419-898-4070.

DETROIT RIVER HAWK WATCH

NE CHAPTER

DATE: Sunday, November 10, 2019

After the conference, we will head to the Detroit River Hawk Watch at Lake Erie Metropark just south of Detroit near Rockwood, MI.

BSBO LAKE ERIE PELAGIC

DATE: Saturday, November 23, 2019

TIME: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Cleveland, OH

DECEMBER

BSBO LAKE ERIE PELAGIC

DATE: Saturday, December 14, 2019

TIME: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Cleveland, OH

THE OYBC SHOUT-OUT PAGE

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

as of June 1, 2019

STUDENT MEMBERS

Derin Apul
Ruth Boucher
Caleb Davis
Amelie Durand
Thomas Franklin
Parker Garver
Duane R. Hershberger
Jeffrey J. Hershberger
Benjamin Mast
Luke A. Miller
Mark P. Miller
Vincent (Vinnie) Moruzzi
Devyn Pienta
Alex Sacks
Brandon Schneider
Ava Tolles
Emma Warner
Alfred R. Yoder
Adam D. Yoder
Jay Adam Yoder
Matthew L. Yoder

SUPPORTING ADULTS

Charles Boucher
Jessica Evans
Kurt Garver
Warren Grody
Carice Jameson
Dana Moruzzi
Jackie Pozniak
Amy Rice
Emma Strick
Katie Ware
Leroy Yoder



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

Golden-Wings Publication Schedule 2019-2020

Fall 2019	Submission Due Date: August 15, 2019
Winter 2020	Submission Due Date: November 15, 2019
Spring 2020	Submission Due Date: March 15, 2020

Please mail or email submissions to:

BSBO, 13551 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449
info@ohioyoungbirders.org, subject line: "Golden-Wings Submission"

"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*

Thank You to all of our OYBC SPONSORS!

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Celestron

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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



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Phone: _____

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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? _____