The OYBC’s Northeast Chapter spent an early June morning in the tree tops birding by zipline at Common Ground Canopy Tour in Oberlin, Ohio. It was a blast! We had 23 species of birds and got to watch a Baltimore Oriole preening at eye level! A special thank you to Common Ground Canopy Tours for this special opportunity!
Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

Coordinators
Jan Auburn, OYBC NE
Tim Daniel, OYBC Central
Nina Harfmann, OYBC Central
Michael Hershberger, OYBC Holmes County
Kim Kaufman, BSBO
Liz McQuaid, OYBC NE
Debbie Riggs, OYBC SW
Liz Rising, OYBC SW
Darlene Sillick, OYBC Central
Patty Toneff, OYBC NW
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.
13551 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449
419-898-4070 (voice)

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

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OYBC Scholarships Available

Theodore A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship

The Theodore "Ted" A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT), provides funding for OYBC student members ages 14–18 to attend one of VENT’s annual summertime youth birding camps. 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.ohioyoungbirders.org/theodore-a-parker-iii-memorial-scholarship.html

for an application form,
or call BSBO at 419-898-4070 and we will mail you a form.

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.ohioyoungbirders.org/john-f-gallagher-memorial-scholarship.html

for an application form,
or call BSBO at 419-898-4070 and we will mail you a form.

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 ebird.org/content/ybn/
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 or Black Swamp Bird Observatory!

* Must be an OYBC member to be eligible to win a prize

www.ohioyoungbirders.org

Past OYBC Bird ID Quiz 2016 Winners

January: Adriana Losey
February: Anna Rose
March: Evan Seurkamp
April: Shannon Branch

2016 MAY/JUNE BIRD ID QUIZ:
“Wonderful Warblers”

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Ohio Young Birders Club

GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Luke Bornhorst
Adriana Losey
Anna Rose
Evan Seurkamp
Helena Souffrant
Chloe Wicks

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:
Kate Zimmerman

GOLDEN-WINGS Proof readers: Ryan Jacob, Kim Smith, & 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, 2016

Email:
info@ohiyoungbirders.org

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

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Cover Photo:
Group photo at 9th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference hosted by Cleveland Metroparks. Photo by Mike Zook.
GOLDEN-WINGS (GW) – What got you interested in birds, and in what year did you start birding?

Helena Souffrant (HS) – One day at the Rocky River Nature Center I was looking out of the bird window and saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. I started birding in 2014.

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

HS - OYBC has helped me. I also use a bird identification app called iBird Pro.

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

HS - I don’t have a favorite bird. I love all birds. I mean, they’re birds. How can you not love them?

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

HS - Since I really like water birds and ducks, I like to go birding at Perkin’s Beach in Cleveland.

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

HS - I would really like to see a Shoebill, found in Uganda. Shoebills look cool and scary at the same time.

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

HS - Of course! I LOVE all kinds of nature. I am really interested in Ecology.

GW – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

HS - I play the Mountain Dulcimer and the Violin. I also like knitting, reading, and gymnastics.

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

HS - My mom is into birding now that I’ve started.

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?

HS - Well, when I say the word “birding,” most people don’t know what that is. When I tell them what it is, they don’t seem to understand what the point of birding is. Most people only know about cardinals, blue jays, and sparrows, not all of the amazing and colorful birds we see. To change that, we can spread the word about birds and tell people.

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

HS - We can take them outside and actually have them interact with nature so they can see how cool and interesting it really is.

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

HS - Yes. Many birders use eBird, an online sharing site that allows birders to enter in their latest bird sightings.

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

HS - Last summer, we went on vacation to Seattle, Washington, then went sea kayaking in the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington. There, we saw Black Oystercatchers and Pigeon Guillemots.

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

HS - If I could go anywhere in the world to see a bird, I would go to the Pacific Northwest to see a Tufted Puffin.

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

HS - I have been to two of the OYBC State Conferences. I also went to the Biggest Week festival at Magee Marsh.

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

HS - I am a part of Environmental Heroes, a youth environmental field research program run by Case Western Reserve University. I am part of BioClub, a high school biology club through the Lake County Metroparks.

GW - Where do you go to school?

HS - I go to Urban Community School. I will be entering 8th grade.

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

HS - Well, yes I plan to go to college. I am interested in SUNY ESF, which is an environmental science and forestry school in Syracuse, New York.

GW - Do you have a job somewhere?

HS - No. However, when I turn 14, I plan to work for the Cleveland Botanical Garden.

GW - What is your dream job?

HS - I want to be an Ecologist.

GW - If your dream job isn’t related to birding, do you think you will still be a birder once you have your dream job?

HS - Yes. I will always be a birder!

GW - What is your favorite book, and what makes it your favorite?

HS - My favorite book is the Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of the Midwest. It is my favorite because it has ALL of the animals and plant species of the Midwest.

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

HS - My favorite movie is called “Against the Wild.” It is my favorite because it is about a brother and a sister that get lost in the wild and have to find their way back home and use things that the sister knows about NATURE to find their way home. I also love all of the colorful fall scenes.

GW - What’s your favorite place to eat?

HS - My favorite place to eat is Pepper’s. It is an Italian restaurant near my house with the best pizza in the world.

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

HS - I have a cat and a dog. The cat is named Rosie and the dog is named Churra. They are best friends.

GW - Do you volunteer anywhere?

HS - I volunteer at the Cleveland Metroparks, the Holden Arboretum, and the Cleveland Botanical Garden.

GW - Are you involved with any birding projects?

HS - Yes, at the Holden Arboretum, I help monitor the Eastern Bluebird population. I monitor 14 nest boxes on one trail of the arboretum property. I check them weekly and record my observations. I look for things like adult activity, number of eggs in a clutch, invasive species activity, nest condition, and blowfly larva. The data are compiled and submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

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

HS - OYBC has taught me so many different birds. The advisors have helped me, and the other members have also helped me.

Interested in being interviewed by GOLDEN-WINGS?
Contact the Ohio Young Birders Club at info@ohiyoungbirders.org
On May 25th around 6 p.m., I was just sitting on the couch working on my bird lists. I looked out the window and I saw a dove sitting near one of the feeders. Its back was faced towards me, so I couldn't see the front of the bird, but I realized that it had a rounded tail and not a pointed tail like a Mourning Dove. I quickly ran to my room and grabbed my camera and took probably 20 pictures of this bird. It was a White-winged Dove! I quickly uploaded my pictures and submitted a report to eBird.

This White-winged Dove was the 2nd record for Delaware County according to eBird. It was a state first for me. I've only seen them in Florida before. It also brought my yard list to 125 and my patch list to 196. The next day it was still present, so I posted it on the Ohio Birds Listserv when I got home from school. Within 10 minutes, I had received about 30 emails about the dove. The next morning people started arriving at 6 a.m. and I had to go to school, so I wasn't there the whole day but I had received emails saying that it was still there. When I got home at 4 p.m., there were a few birders around. I stood out with the birders till the dove arrived that night at 7 p.m. On Saturday a few birders came by, but the dove was not seen.

I really enjoyed having the White-winged Dove at my house not just because it was rare, but because I got to meet a lot of new birders!

Top: White-winged Dove perched on a branch in Adriana’s backyard; Bottom: White-winged Dove foraging on the ground (photos by Adriana Losey).
The OYBC NW Chapter searched for waterfowl in the western basin of Lake Erie at Maumee Bay State Park.

**OYBC NW Chapter Species List:**
- Canada Goose
- Trumpeter Swan
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Lesser Scaup
- Bufflehead
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Horned Grebe
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- Turkey Vulture
- Sandhill Crane
- Killdeer
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Belted Kingfisher
- Downy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Eastern Phoebe
- American Crow
- Tufted Titmouse
- American Robin
- Gray Catbird
- European Starling
- American Tree Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Rusty Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- House Sparrow

The OYBC NE Chapter did some late winter birding at Horseshoe Pond in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

**OYBC NE Chapter Species List:**
- Cooper's Hawk
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- American Crow
- Turkey Vulture
- Eastern Bluebird
- White-throated Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Brown Creeper
- American Robin
- Blue Jay
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Mallard
- American Tree Sparrow
- Northern Cardinal
- Barred Owl
- Red-breasted Nuthatch

Central Chapter’s Killdeer Plains Winter Adventure

by Luke Bornhorst & Chloe Wicks

Our trip started by going to Area 27 first. We were greeted by Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Song Sparrow, Canada Geese, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, American Wigeon, American Kestrel, Killdeer, and a Merlin. We were even treated to a Bald Eagle swooping down and catching some prey. On our way to our second stop of the day, we were stopped in our tracks by a beautiful Ring-necked Pheasant strolling in a field.

Next we visited a pond on Route 108. This pond was filled with many Canada Geese, Tundra, and Trumpeter Swans. But inside this massive group of Canada Geese were many gems yet to be found. As the group looked harder, we found a beautiful Greater White-fronted Goose, and a pair of amazing Cackling Geese. Along with these two fantastic birds we saw a Canvasback, a Mute Swan creeping along the tall grass, a Northern Harrier, and a Bald Eagle. Along with the Eagle we saw its nest. The last group of birds we saw at the pond on Route 108 was a petite group of Redheads. Our next stop was at Owl Grove. Our hopes were high as we very quietly strolled through the towering pine trees, but we were unsuccessful at finding any birds. However, we did find pellets containing bones and observed some white wash on the trunks of the trees. At this point in the day we were really hoping for something that seemed brilliant, like the Cackling Geese.

Our last stop of the day was at the Upland Reservoir. There we found a few Red-breasted Mergansers, another Bald Eagle, two gulls we were unable to identify, multiple Canada Geese, a Blue Jay, and on our way out we saw a small group of Wood Ducks enjoying themselves in a pond. My exuberated squeal at the mere sight of them ensured that they were immediately scared off. This was Chloe’s and my last stop on the birding trip for the day for we had homework that we procrastinated doing and left it to the last minute, like most middle schoolers. On our way home, we saw some Horned Larks along the sides of the road, a few American Robins, and a Northern Cardinal.
On Saturday, February 13, the OYBC Holmes County Chapter went birding in the morning. The boys started their day early with some birding at Wooster Secrest Arboretum, Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, and Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area. The first thing we did was bird at the Wooster Secrest Arboretum. We got out of the van and took a short walk, but unfortunately there was not much excitement. So Prairie Lane was our next stop. We set up our scopes and saw a Mute Swan and Canada Geese. Our next stop was Wilderness Road. There we saw a Northern Harrier, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, and a Rough-legged Hawk in the distance. Our last birding spot for the morning was at Butler Spring. There we saw Northern Pintail, American Black Duck, Mallard, and Wilson’s Snipe.

We got back from birding and ate a great lunch. Then we built Barn Owl nest boxes for our first conservation service project! We met at a local chair building factory shop to build the owl nest boxes. Before we started building the boxes Stan Searles talked to us about bird conservation and Hallie Mason discussed the life history of Barn Owls. We had 19 of us helping to build Barn Owl nest boxes. We built 32 Barn Owl nest boxes! Once we were done building nest boxes, we went to a local barn and got to see a Barn Owl. Some of us got really nice pictures. Then most of us got to see Rusty Blackbirds. It was another good day.

32 Ready to Install Barn Owl Nest Boxes!

Martin Apartment Project By Anna Rose

On a chilly spring day in March, the Central Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club visited Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Our goal was to set up “apartments” for Purple Martins to breed in. We gathered outside around the Grange Insurance Audubon Center to construct the boxes. Our advisors gave a short introduction to the life history of Martins and their breeding behaviors. Afterwards, we built boxes out of gourds. On the inside we placed a thick layer of pine needles to encourage the birds to nest. A tubular opening was fit on the front of the box to protect the Martins from the weather as well as other birds. Finally, each young birder’s box then received a designated number.

Once all the boxes were finished, the young birders carried their boxes to a grassland habitat suitable for Purple Martins. Close by the apartment site were three small ponds and enough open space to support foraging Martins. With the help of our advisors, we set up a pulley-rigging system that would allow us to raise and lower the sets of gourds. Once the boxes were tightly secured, the rig was then raised to a height of about ten feet. After final adjustments, we had reached our goal. Hopefully, a colony of Purple Martins will find a home here come spring. Together, the young birders helped support the well-loved Purple Martin.
Barn Swallow
by Anna Rose

This painting of a Barn Swallow is based off a photograph taken at Magee Marsh. The mediums used include detailed watercolor in the plumage of the bird, and soft pastels for the sky background. As a final touch, colored pencil was used to highlight certain patches of the bird’s feathers.

Baltimore Oriole
by Anna Rose

The Baltimore Oriole in this watercolor painting was also inspired by the many orioles at Magee Marsh gorging on oranges. First, I added watercolor detail to the bird and then outlined it in black pen. Finally I finished the piece by adding a watercolor wash to the background and splattering some paint on it for texture.

“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.”
-Henry David Thoreau
Northern Saw-whet Owl
by Anna Rose

When drawing this Northern Saw-whet Owl, I first drew the outline and basic shading of the bird using colored pencils. Then, I used soft pastels to add texture and an eraser to add highlights to the feathers. Finally, the soft background was created when I blended soft pastels with my fingers.

"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

Do you have bird or nature-themed artwork, photography, and/or a creative poem or story that you would like featured in GOLDEN-WINGS?

If so, we’d love to share it with the OYBC community!

Contact info@ohioyoungbirders.org to submit content for the OYBC newsletter, Golden-wings.
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.

Thanks!
We got on the water at about 9 AM. We stayed in one spot to wait for other people. As we were waiting Trevor, Anna, and I heard a Prothonotary Warbler singing. We paddled over to the tree line and sure enough there was one sitting up in the tree singing. Once everyone was ready to go, we headed out. As we paddled our way to the bridge we saw Cedar Waxwings, a Green Heron, and Turkey Vultures. We also heard Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Warbling Vireos. Once we reached the bridge there were quite a few Northern Rough-winged Swallows, which were awesome to see.

After the bridge the group split up a little and kayaked in the open, and a few of us went along the tree line and saw a Prothonotary Warbler, an Acadian Flycatcher, and a White-tailed Deer with at least 6 points! Next, we headed down a narrow path to look for a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest. We found it when the female was sitting on it! On our way out we had a Prothonotary Warbler fly right over our heads!

We decided to go see if there was a Green Heron nest this year. We saw the Green Heron pair sitting in the tree, one flew off and the other one flew into the nest! After we got good looks at the adult and young Green Heron, Tyler had a Northern Parula singing in the tree line. I paddled over to him with Cristiana, Kate, Delaney, and Anna. As we were sitting and listening to it along with a Prothonotary Warbler and Indigo Bunting, Anna found a Bullfrog tadpole! It had small legs and still had its tail. We headed back to TAASC where we ate lunch and helped band a few Tree Swallow nestlings. We had a little bit of time to try our hand at archery. One of the TAASC volunteers taught us how to shoot a bow and arrow. It was really cool!
After lunch we headed over to the Wildlife Center for sketching and photography. I decided to try sketching. We went downstairs where Barnaby was. Barnaby is a Barn Owl who is 28 years old. He was rescued from a tree that was cut down after his wing was injured. We sketched him for a while. Then we went outside and sketched and took pictures of an American Kestrel and a Gray-morph Eastern-screech Owl. I had a ton of fun and learned a lot!

*Thanks to Peter Emmett for tagging along and taking photos of our day-long adventure! All photos shown here are by Peter Emmett.

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Birding by Kayak Species List
compiled by Adriana Losey

- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- Green Heron
- Turkey Vulture
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Mourning Dove
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird
- Warbling Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- House Wren
- Carolina Wren
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Eastern Bluebird
- American Robin
- Gray Catbird
- Brown Thrasher
- Cedar Waxwing
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Northern Parula
- Yellow Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Field Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Eastern Towhee
- Northern Cardinal
- Indigo Bunting
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Orchard Oriole
- Baltimore Oriole
- American Goldfinch
- Bald Eagle
- House Sparrow
The Ohio Young Birders field trip to the Museum of Biological Diversity was amazing! After we visited the incredible collection of bugs guided by Dr. Luciana Musetti, Curator of the Triplehorn Insect Collection, we headed over to the bird part of our adventure. Although we find bugs very neat, we are bird people, so we moved on to our personal favorite, the Tetrapod collection, or as we like to call it “the museum of dead birds and mammals.”

Upon entering, we were immediately greeted by a fantastic variety of owls and soon after we saw the hawks and falcons. Dr. Angelika Nelson, the Curator of the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics and the Tetrapod Collection, led the tour. The wide variety of birds amazed us; knowing that you were standing in a room with about 17,000 birds was unbelievable. Even though the birds were deceased, you knew that they had once had that spark of life in them, that you see in many birds today.

When we got into the background of the museum, things really started to get interesting. It turns out the oldest bird in the museum was from 1809! It was an American Tree Sparrow. The specimen was over 200 years old. We also found out that many of their specimens are quite old. It’s very interesting that just about all of their birds have a story behind them. The museum has a neat program where you can “adopt” a bird. You can donate money to the museum and they will turn a frozen bird into a skin. After that it will go into a glass case where your name will be displayed next to the bird. Luke’s personal favorite was the Brown Kiwi and Chloe’s was the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

After we gazed at the beautiful array of eggs and some of the most fascinating bird skulls, we looked more at the birds. Some of these birds included extinct species such as the Passenger Pigeon and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Carolina Parakeet. Even though our main focus was the birds, there were many other reptiles and mammals, such as elephant and hippo skulls, a manatee skeleton, and numerous jars of dead snakes and oozing turtles.

One of our favorites was an amazing exhibit of beautiful Ohio warblers. From Kirtland’s to Yellow-rumped, from Cerulean to Goldwing, to Worm-eating warblers, they were all there. It was amazing seeing the different types of warblers sitting together so you can see the clear differences. Most of the warblers were yellow. When you saw them together, it really made you appreciate their differences. We even got to see an icon at OSU, the Afro Duck!

“The best part of the Museum of Biodiversity was the room full of birds. I got to see extinct birds like the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the Passenger Pigeon.”

~ Zoe Drake

“The Museum of Biodiversity was a treasure trove of knowledge, interesting finds, and very devoted professors who were more than willing to share their skills and interests with us. Thanks to Darlene, Angelika, Jackie and Lou...we had a great time!”

~ Elizabeth Drake

OSU Museum of Biodiversity
By Chloe Wicks & Luke Bornhorst

Tour of the Entomology Museum
By Anna Rose

On a chilly day in early April, the OYBC Central Chapter met for a private tour of OSU’s museum of Biological Diversity. We were introduced to three of OSU’s curators, Luciana Musetti, Jackie Augustine, and Angelika Nelson. All three of them were kind enough to show the young birders their research projects and specimens. Luciana took us to the museum’s room of entomology where she had set out numerous insect collection exhibits for us to enjoy. She told us that she considered her favorite family of insects to be the fairyflies. This tiny insect, almost invisible to the naked eye, has an incredible diversity of more than a thousand species. The OYBCers were overwhelmed by the numbers of insects in the museum. We saw gorgeous cecropia moths, tiny skippers, dung beetles, and an Atlas Beetle that weighed half a pound! Luciana also showed us how she mounted and studied her specimens - row upon row of shelves with carefully preserved insects. Before we knew it, it was time to visit the next section of the museum. It was unfortunate to leave so many drawers left unexplored, but all of us had learned just how fascinating the insect world could be.
Behind the Scenes at the Cincinnati Zoo

The OYBC SW Chapter had a special opportunity to visit the Cincinnati Zoo with their families on a chilly mid-February day and go on a behind-the-scenes tour of the aviary and an up-close penguin experience. Special thanks to Robert Webster, Curator of Birds at the Cincinnati Zoo, who gave a special presentation and led a tour of the zoo aviary for our young birders and their families. Our OYBC members had an incredible zoo adventure that day!

Bird Dissection at the Museum and the creation of Robot-Chicken

By Evan Seurkamp

When I was younger I did a science fair project on hearts. My mom and I got a cow’s heart from a butcher for my project. I remember thinking that cow heart was awesome! I must have gotten a little queasy at the sight of dissected dead things over the years. I couldn’t help feeling slightly lightheaded when Jackie Augustine, who teaches at OSU Lima, was dissecting birds at the Museum of Biological Diversity in Columbus, Ohio. Though I felt somewhat sick, I still learned a great deal about the anatomy of birds. For example, I learned how a bird’s trachea connects to the bottom inside of its beak! Jackie demonstrated the differences between a hawk and duck tongue by clipping them out of two specimens. The Cooper’s Hawk tongue was short and skinny, while the Blue-winged Teal’s was large and looked like a tiny shovel. This variation is significant because dabbling ducks need spoon-like tongues to aid them in scooping up pondweed and other aquatic plants! We also looked at these birds’ intestines. The Blue-winged Teal’s were long and complex, perfect for digesting this duck’s favorite food—pond vegetation and seeds. The Cooper’s Hawk intestines were short, since this hawk eats meat which doesn’t take as long to digest as plants. We also dissected the stomach of a third bird, a Morning Dove, and found seeds!

The three birds that we dissected were impressive (and gory), but my favorite part of the whole morning was Jackie’s robo-chicken. Jackie told us she was going to use the Prairie Chicken skin over a mold on wheels to study how Greater and Lesser Prairie Chickens react to each other when mating. It was then that I realized that if you have a chicken robot, you become ten-times cooler! This robot could turn its head, move backward and forward and turn. Its knobby wheels should help it motor through the grasslands of the Prairie Chicken’s native habitat and give the researchers plenty of information. I even thought of a good name for their bird-droid, “The Chicken Truck!” Overall, I had a fantastic time and am very thankful to the OYBC and the Museum of Biological Diversity for the opportunity. I hope that I can enjoy another tour someday!
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 BSBO at 419-898-4070.

**OYBC Holmes County Chapter**
Shorebirds, Butterflies & Dragonflies
Saturday, August 6, 2016
TIME: 7:30 AM to Noon
LOCATION: Funk Bottoms & Killbuck Marsh

Please RSVP to Michael Hershberger at (330) 231-6689

**OYBC NE Chapter**
Sounds of Nature at Night with Lisa Rainsong
Tuesday, August 9, 2016
TIME: 8:00 - 10:00 PM
LOCATION: Emerald Field - Bedford Reservation (14505 Button Rd, Walton Hills, OH 44146)

Please RSVP by Sunday, August 7, 2016
To learn more about Lisa Rainsong, check out her website, www.lisarainsong.com

**OYBC Central Chapter**
Say Goodbye to Summer at Indian Lake
Saturday, August 20, 2016
TIME: 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM
LOCATION: Susan Setterlin’s private cottage on Indian Lake (Susan is a former OYBC Advisor)

Our day will include an early morning birding boat ride (pontoon boat), a hotdog cookout for lunch, and another pontoon ride in the afternoon to look for additional wildlife.

You will need to bring a Van Permission Slip (see website for details and carpool meeting location).

Please RSVP by Monday, August 15, 2016

**OYBC SW Chapter**
Early Fall Migrants with Bill Creasey
Saturday, August 27, 2016
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Camp Dennison & Armleder Park

We will start out at Camp Dennison. We will be looking for early fall passerine migrants and shorebirds.

**OYBC NE Chapter**
Bird Banding with Tom Bartlett
Sunday, September 4, 2016
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: NW Ohio (specific location TBD)

**OYBC Central Chapter**
Bird Banding in Union County
Saturday, September 10, 2016
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Union County, OH (specific location TBD)

**OYBC Statewide Annual BIG DAY For Conservation**
Early October 2016
Location: Local meeting area for each OYBC Chapter
(check with your advisor for details)

Help support the Ohio Young Birders Club by participating in the annual Big Day for Conservation. Like a walkathon, people can donate to the OYBC by pledging an amount for every species seen during the event or donate a flat amount.

BIG SIT pledge forms and location details can be found on www.ohioyoungbirders.org

**OYBC Statewide Club**
10th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference
Saturday, November 5, 2016
TIME: TBD (full day)
LOCATION: Toledo Zoo (2 Hippo Way, Toledo, OH 43609)

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 an optional behind-the-scenes tour of the Toledo Zoo Aviary, fabulous raffle prizes, lunch, optic raffles, and a bird 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!

Registration deadline: October 31, 2016

Registration Cost:
- Student Member $10
- Student Non-member $15
- Adult Supporting Member $20
- Adult Supporting Non-member $25

You do not have to be a member to attend and adults are encouraged to attend too!

For more information, discounted lodging, and to register go to www.ohioyoungbirders.org
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
- Time & Optics
- Kelleys Island Audubon Club
- Zeiss
- Eagle Optics
- Global Conservation Connections
- Hockstetler Milling, Ltd
- Erbco Custom Cover
- Leica
- Midwest Native Plant Society
- Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Have you renewed your OYBC membership for 2016?
Visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org to renew TODAY!

Do YOU have a great idea for an OYBC field trip?
If so, we’d love to hear about it!
Contact Us - info@ohioyoungbirders.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.

Thanks!

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 ohiyoungbirders.org

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

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, Ohio 43449