



## OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

SUMMER 2016

ENCOURAGING, EDUCATING, & EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH CONSERVATION LEADERS

"Of all of the birding groups and functions in Ohio, I put the Ohio Young Birders Club at the top of the list. This is the COOLEST thing going on in Ohio birding!"

~ Greg Miller, "The Big Year"



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!

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### Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

#### Coordinators

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Kate Zimmerman, BSBO

The OYBC was founded in 2006  
by **Black Swamp  
Bird Observatory**

*Teaming Research With Education  
To Promote Bird Conservation*

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

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### 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](http://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](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/john-f-gallagher-memorial-scholarship)

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/](http://ebird.org/content/ybn/)**

# OYBC BIRD ID PHOTO QUIZ

## 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](http://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"



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@ohioyoungbirders.org](mailto:info@ohioyoungbirders.org)

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### Cover Photo:

Group photo at 9th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference hosted by Cleveland Metroparks. Photo by Mike Zook.



# YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE: HELENA SOUFFRANT, AGE 13

**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 anyplace 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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@ohioyoungbirders.org**

## RARE BIRD ALERT: WHITE-WINGED DOVE BY ADRIANA LOSEY, AGE 13

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).

### YOUNG BIRDER CAMPS

#### Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)

Camp Chiricahua • SE Arizona • 12 days • Ages 14-18 • June/July

Camp Cascades • Pacific NW • 12 days • Ages 14-18 • June/July

#### Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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

#### Audubon

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

Family Camp • Hog Island, ME • 6 days • Ages 8-12 • August

#### American Birding Association (ABA)

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

Camp Avocet • Lewes, DE • 7 days • Ages 13-18 • July/August

*For more information about camps and how to register, go to [ohioyoungbirders.org](http://ohioyoungbirders.org)*



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

Are you interested in  
exploring new areas &  
making life-long friends?

Check out the summer  
youth camps on the  
OYBC website  
and/or the  
Young Birders Network:

[ohioyoungbirders.org](http://ohioyoungbirders.org)  
[ebird.org/content/ybn](http://ebird.org/content/ybn)



# WINTER MADNESS!!! (...THE BIRD KIND)



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



**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	American Robin
Black-capped Chickadee	Blue Jay
Tufted Titmouse	Red-bellied Woodpecker
White-breasted Nuthatch	Downy Woodpecker
American Crow	Mallard
Turkey Vulture	American Tree Sparrow
Eastern Bluebird	Northern Cardinal
White-throated Sparrow	Barred Owl
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper	



## **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.

# GIVING BACK TO THE BIRDS OYBC STYLE

On a chilly mid-February day, 19 student members of the OYBC Holmes County Chapter got together to participate in their first conservation service project. Our young birders built a whopping 32 Barn Owl boxes in one afternoon! Thank you to Stan Searles with Global Conservation Connections for donating the materials, to HW Chair for use of their workshop to build the nest boxes, and to Hallie Mason for teaching us about the life history of Barn Owls. A special thank you to Anna Marie Hershberger for providing a wonderful lunch for our young birders!

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!

**Barn Owl Nest Box  
Template**

+

**19 OYBC Holmes County  
Student Members**

+

**One Saturday Afternoon**

=



## 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.







Anna Rose

## **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

## **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.



Anna Rose  
2014





## 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](mailto: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!**



# BIRDING BY KAYAK BY ADRIANA LOSEY, AGE 13

**A very special THANK YOU to Darlene Sillick who planned and coordinated this super fun adventure!**



**W**e 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!



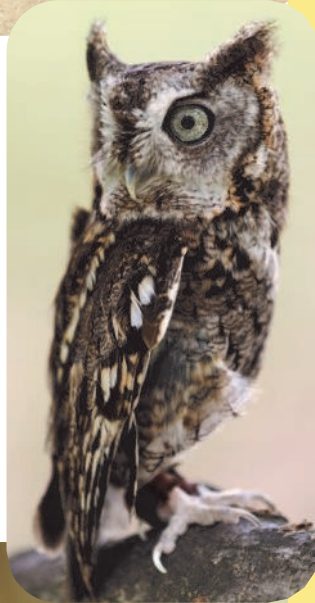


## ... BIRDING BY KAYAK CONTINUED



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.*



### 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



# ADVENTURES IN THE OSU MUSEUM OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

## OSU Museum of Biodiversity

By Chloe Wicks & Luke Bornhorst

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.



"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, Jakie and Lou...we had a great time!"

~ Elizabeth Drake



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!



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

## 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!



## ...MUSEUM OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONTINUED ...

### 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!





# OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Additional field trip information at [www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)**



# THE OYBC SHOUT OUT PAGE

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

as of June 1, 2016

### STUDENT MEMBERS

Andrew Armacost  
Shannon Branch  
Charlotte Carlson  
Brian Hershberger  
Aidan Koenigsberger  
Nate Koszycki  
Christiana Price  
Hannah Pryor  
Kanta Michael Seto  
Ervin E. Weaver  
Arlen Weaver

### ADULT SUPPORTERS

Winifred Armacost  
Holly Christensen  
Saundra Deighton  
Eva Johnson  
Kristin Koenigsberger  
Dena Little  
Helen Rhynard  
Yuriko Seto  
Atlee Weaver  
Wendi Willmer



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



Laura Willis  
Adam R. Yoder  
Andy Zelms

Have you renewed your OYBC  
membership for 2016?

Visit  
[www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)  
to renew TODAY!

## !! SAVE THE DATE !!

10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Ohio Young Birders  
Conference  
November 5, 2016

### 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](mailto: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!

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

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



## SAVE THE DATE!

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

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



## Black Swamp Bird Observatory

13551 West State Route 2  
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449  
(419) 898-4070

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### Ohio Young Birders Club New or Renewal Membership

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If Student, Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I want to conserve trees and expense; sign me up for electronic delivery of all of OYBC's communications.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount - Yes I would like to make a donation to help support OYBC

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues (calendar year)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed  
(Please make checks payable to BSBO)

\_\_\_ **\$ 10 - Student**

\_\_\_ **\$ 20 - Supporting Adult**

\_\_\_ **\$ 100 to \$1000 - Sponsorship Level**

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in volunteering? How? \_\_\_\_\_

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