



OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

SUMMER/FALL 2019

ENCOURAGING, EDUCATING, AND EMPOWERING
OUR YOUTH CONSERVATION LEADERS



This Sanderling was captured in a stunning photograph by Josh King, OYBC SW Chapter, during the Nature Photography Shorebird Workshop on August 24, with Brian Zwiebel of Sabrewing Nature Tours.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Special Announcements: 2-3
- ◆ OYBC Bird ID Photo Quiz: 4
- ◆ Race 4 Birds: 5
- ◆ Young Birder Profile: 6-7
- ◆ Helping Purple Martins: 8
- ◆ Crickets & Katydid: 9
- ◆ Field Trip Reports: 10
- ◆ The Ohio History Connection: 11-12
- ◆ OYBC Artwork Gallery: 13
- ◆ Youth Birding Camps & Events: 14-15
- ◆ Ohio Young Birders Conference: 16
- ◆ OYBC Shout-Outs: 17
- ◆ Big Sit/Big Day Fundraiser: 18-19
- ◆ OYBC Membership Form: 20

Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

Statewide Coordinator

Laura Guerard

Chapter Coordinators

Richard "Buster" Banish, Northeast

Jamie Cunningham, Northwest

Jessica Evans, Central

Amy Downing, Northwest

Alex Eberts, Statewide

Warren Grody, Central

Michael Hershberger, Holmes-Wayne Co.

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Liz McQuaid, Northeast

Kelly Milewski, Northwest

Ann Petrushka, Central

Darlene Sillick, Central

Emma Strick, Northeast

Mike Sustin, Statewide

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

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

Hallie Mason Memorial Scholarship for Young Birders

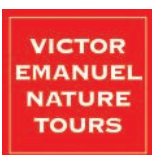
Beloved Ohio birder, Hallie Mason, left us on September 11, 2017, after a brief battle with Glioblastoma. Hallie's grandmother, Glenna Peoples, fostered in her a spirit of independence and a love of nature which years later developed into a passion for birding. In Ohio birding circles, she was well known 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.

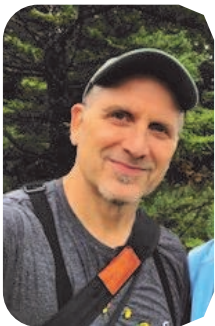
Welcome New Advisors!



Jessica Evans, Central Co-Advisor

Jessica started birding with her mom when she was in college. They attended a Columbus Audubon Eco-Weekend event in Hocking Hills where she took a beginning birder walk. She was instantly hooked and has been an enthusiastic beginning birder ever since! Her daughter Ami started birding with them at a young age and her enthusiasm for the activity inspires Jessica to do more. They continue to attend Columbus Audubon's Eco-Weekend every spring and Jessica serves on the Eco-Weekend planning committee. Her favorite way to go birding is in a kayak

on any body of water, especially Lake Erie during the spring migration. They also enjoy the OYBC birding-by-kayak events. Jessica looks forward to sharing her love of birding with the OYBC community. She has a degree in Zoology and when she's not birding or kayaking, she works for The Ohio State University in the Office of Research as a research ethics administrator.



Richard "Buster" Banish, Northeast Co-Advisor

Buster and his wife, Joy, live in Gates Mills, OH. They have 3 children and 10 grandchildren. He has a Masters in Education from Notre Dame College and has taught in Cleveland Metropolitan Schools for more than 35 years. Buster has formerly coached a variety of athletic teams including volleyball, softball, baseball, football, and boys/girls basketball. He has been a birder for 25+ years, has spent 15 years as an Audubon Spring Bird Walk leader, and serves as a Field Tech for Swarovski Optiks. For the past 20 years, Buster has served as a Docent (tour guide) at Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. In 2018,

he formed the East Clark Bird Nerd Club at his school and brought the club to the Biggest Week in American Birding last spring.

BSBO'S OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB RECEIVES \$35,000 GRANT!

The Ohio EPA's Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) awarded Black Swamp Bird Observatory full funding of \$35,000 for our Ohio Young Birders Club expansion. The OEEF grant fund will enable BSBO to achieve measurable objectives that support the overall goal of expanding and enhancing the OYBC, building a brighter future for bird conservation.

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

- OYBC Advisors volunteer their time to encourage, empower, and educate young naturalists to ensure our future has strong conservation leadership.
- Become an OYBC Adult Supporting Member.
- Share your expertise as a Field Trip Leader.
- Help strengthen your local chapter with a partnership.

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

GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Raúl Castro-Dean
Jessica Decker
Aravah Getzler
Elizabeth Kanzeg
Josh King
Adriana Losey
Kaylee McCaskey
Mitchell SanGregory
Katelyn Shelton

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:

Laura Guerard

GOLDEN-WINGS Editorial Team:

Jasmine Cupp, Ryan Jacob
& Karen Zach

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

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

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is November 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:

The OYBC NW Chapter arranged a Nature Photography Shorebird Workshop on August 24 with Brian Zwiebel of Sabrewing Nature Tours.

OYBC BIRD ID PHOTO QUIZ: SCENES FROM THE CHIRICAHUAS

Testing your identification skills this month, September/October's Photo ID Quiz was created by Adriana Losey, OYBC Central Chapter.

Directions: Identify each numbered species.

Adriana has presented a select group of birds photographed this summer while attending VENT's Camp Chiricahua in southeast Arizona. This is not only a great time to sharpen your id skills on western birds, but also to get an idea of some of the birds to look forward to if attending this amazing camp next year!

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



Ohio Young Birders Club

August Quiz Answers: "Long-legged Shorebirds" 1. Black-bellied Plover 2. Lesser Yellowlegs 3. Black-necked Stilt 4. Stilt Sandpiper 5. Wilson's Phalarope 6. American Avocet

RACE 4 BIRDS



During Time & Optics annual Optics Fling, birders ages 10-21 form teams, seek sponsorships and compete to find the highest number of species from 4:00 am to 12:00 noon. All proceeds from Race 4 Birds (R4B) Birding Competition are donated to the Ohio Young Birders Club and Black Swamp Bird Observatory to promote birding and help with conservation efforts.

The Wandering Tattlers were the winners with a total of 134 species! Each of the five winners of this team received a binocular from Time & Optics.

The Wandering Waterthrushes were the first back; each team member received \$5.00.

The Long Lane Hummers collected the highest sponsorship; each member of this team received a \$20.00 Time & Optics gift card.

*Additional donations received after sponsorship for teams do not count towards the highest sponsorship. Sponsorship money raised must be counted before the day of the R4B in order to be eligible for the prize for collecting the most money.



TEAM NAME	SPECIES TOTAL	SPONSOR AMOUNT	ADDITIONAL DONATIONS*
Wandering Tattlers	134	\$33.50	
Long Lane Hummers	125	\$62.50	
Wandering Waterthrushes	120	\$60.00	\$120.00
Bike 4 Birds	116	\$49.00	\$116.00
Green Acre Bobolinks	114	\$50.00	
TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES	140	TOTAL RAISED	\$491.00

2020 YOUNG BIRDER CAMPS & EVENTS

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)

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

Session I: July 1-12, 2020; Session II: July 8-19, 2020

Camp Cascades • Pacific NW • 12 days • Ages 14-18 • July 25-August 5, 2020

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Young Birders Event • Ithaca, NY • 4 days • Ages 15-18 • July 9-12, 2020

Audubon

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

Session I: June 14-19, 2020; Session II: June 21-26, 2020

Tropical Teen Week in Costa Rica • Ages 15-19 • July 31-August 6, 2020

American Birding Association (ABA)

Camp Colorado • Estes Park, CO • 7 days • Ages 13-18 • June 18-24, 2020

Camp Avocet • Lewes, DE • 8 days • Ages 13-18 • July 30-August 6, 2020

NEW! Camp Zebra Hills • South Africa • June 18-24, 2020

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

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

Check out summer youth camps & events on the OYBC website :

www.ohioyoungbirders.org/youth-birding-camps



Illustration by Nathan Martineau, 2013

YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE: JESSICA DECKER



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

Jessica Decker (JD) – I got interested in birds in 2015 after filling an unused bird feeder at my house, and trying to figure out what everything was that came to it.

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

JD – My mom has probably been the biggest supporter of my birding. Even though she's not an experienced birder

herself, she gets up early in the morning to drive me to parks and events so I can continue to learn about and practice my passion.

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

JD – The Pileated Woodpecker would have to be my favorite bird. It's the first bird I ever heard, identified, looked for, and found without the assistance of another birder. It was at a summer camp, and I got a lot of odd looks when I started laughing while looking up a tree.

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

JD – My favorite place to bird is at Kensington Metropark in my home state, Michigan. There are plenty of trails through diverse ecosystems, including a rookery where Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons nest every year.

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

JD – The Great-Gray Owl is a bird that has evaded me over and over again for years. It's the tallest North American owl, and I believe it's one of the most majestic as well. I would love to be lucky enough to see one, but that can be a bit of a challenge when looking for such fantastically camouflaged birds.

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

JD – There are really no natural science areas I'm NOT intrigued by. Nature is cool.

GW – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

JD – Besides birding, my other main hobby is classical singing. I sang

for the Detroit Opera House for a time, and was able to make it up to the All-State Honors Choir level this year. It's my favorite way to express myself. I have the opportunity to meet successful performers and sing in some amazing venues.

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

JD – While supportive of my interests, none of my friends or family members, outside OYBC, are birders themselves. It can be difficult in situations when I have a question, or even just want to tell someone about a cool sighting. No one I know at home really wants to talk about Blackburnian Warblers or Eastern Phoebe. So, I spend a lot of my time teaching myself much of the information I use while birding. While I may not be as advanced with identification or other skills that kids my age who do have parents or friends who are birders, there is something to be said about learning things yourself and at your own pace.

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?

JD – Most kids my age seem to think that birding is exclusively for older people and means you just stare at a tree all day. I believe the most effective way to change that would be to push them to get out and try it themselves, to see how exciting and rewarding it can be.

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

JD – I believe exposing children to nature through school with programs like "Salmon in the Classroom" and "The Rooftop Garden Project" is very impactful and should be considered more of a priority in today's society where environmental awareness is all the more important.

Almost 300 classrooms throughout Michigan raise salmon – from eggs to smolt – then release them in the spring. Caring for the young salmon creates a connection between caring for their fish and caring for their local environment. The Rooftop Garden Project has become a model of community-involved, sustainable urban agriculture, demonstrating urban



Black-throated Blue Warbler by Jessica Decker

...YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE CONTINUED

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

JD – Yes. By creating a space on a platform where young birders from all over could share stories and photos.

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

JD – I have not gone on birding trips anywhere besides Michigan and Ohio, although I have been to many other states. Most of those, I visited before I was interested in birding. I'd love to go somewhere like the South-west where I could see a whole new palette of species to freshen things up.

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

JD – I would love to go to Antarctic and try to see a bunch of penguin species.

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

JD – I have attended the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch Convention, the Lake Erie Metroparks Raptor Festival, and the 2018 OYBC Conference.

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

JD – In addition to OYBC, I belong to 4H, National Honor Society, and the National Thespian Society.

GW – Where do you go to school?

JD – Ferndale High School in Michigan.

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

JD – I do plan to go to college, and I'm looking at either Central Michigan University or Grand Valley State University.

GW – What is your dream job?

JD – My dream job is to work as a wildlife interpreter for one of the national parks, or for the DNR.

GW – What do you think having the hobby of birding will bring to your career?

JD – Birding has given me patience, observation skills, and determination that I will be able to put to use in any workplace.

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

JD – Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution by Avi is my favorite book because it explores the spy ring during the American Revolutionary war, which is my favorite era to learn about.



White -crowned Sparrow by Jessica Decker

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

JD – “How to Train Your Dragon” is my favorite movie because it explores the value of seeing the good in those who are different than you. And it has dragons, and those guys are pretty cool.

GW – What's your favorite place to eat?

JD – My favorite place to eat is T.L.C. in Berkley, Michigan.

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

JD – I have a dog, two cats, two rabbits, and two hermit crabs.

GW – Do you volunteer anywhere?

JD – I volunteer at the Bird Center of Washtenaw County and the Howell Nature Center.

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

JD – I have a life list of 198 species.

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

JD – The OYBC has given me a place where I can talk about my passion with people my age who not only understand, but WANT to hear about it as well. I've learned so much from fellow members, and have had a lot of fun doing bird-nerd things in a group, rather than alone like I do at home.

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

HELPING PURPLE MARTINS: POOP, PARASITES, & MORE!



The youth advisors of the OYBC Central Chapter joined Darlene Sillick on July 1 at the Safari Golf Club to check up on the more than fifty Purple Martin nest gourds located there. Our group consisted of young birders like myself, and longtime veterans of conservation in central Ohio such as Sue Guarasci, who went to the trouble of bringing her own mealworms to feed any runt nestling Purple Martin's to help them fledge safely and healthily.

We assembled one sweltering afternoon to help with one of these precautionary tasks-replacing the nesting materials inside the nest gourds. This deters parasites and provides a perfect opportunity to record important data about the babies, such as their age. Purple Martins are very susceptible to parasites, and their nests are often overtaken by blowfly infestations which feed off of the nestlings until they either weaken or possibly die. Often, people

are afraid that by removing the parasites and "meddling" with the nest materials, they will in some way deter Purple Martin parents from returning. Not only is this false, but studies by the Purple Martin Conservation Association demonstrate a forty percent increase in fledgling survival in parasite-free nests. This is why dedicated volunteers return every year to clean out these nests and give the nestlings a better chance at survival.

When I arrived to help, I was greeted by the formidable Darlene Sillick, who had come still dressed to the nines from work, delegating instructions while zooming around in a property golf cart. She is the best! I was tasked with keeping the little birds in a large plastic bucket, out of the blaring sun and 90-degree heat. As a birder (always looking at birds through binoculars and camera lenses), physically handling them gave me a chance to appreciate the wondrous detail of their feathers and miniature beaks. These tiny wings will grow tremendously over the next ten days, and in just a few months they will migrate 2,000 miles across the Gulf of Mexico.

Physical handling and close-up appreciation of baby birds doesn't come without its share of excitements; everyone was pooped on at least once. Those of us there for the first time quickly realized why the stack of charts used to measure the birds were laminated! We carefully worked through the gourds one at a time, measuring and aging the birds before returning them to their proper gourd, now filled with fresh dry white pine needles. Once we placed all the gourds back in their proper spot, Purple Martin parents immediately returned with beakfuls of bugs to feed the chicks. What a rewarding finale to our day of conservation efforts!

Elizabeth Kanzeg, OYBC Central Chapter & Youth Advisor Board member



Purple Martin photos by Elizabeth Kanzeg



CRICKETS AND KATYDIDS WITH LISA RAINSONG



I had just gotten home from school on the 6th of September, expecting to have an uneventful evening by myself. My parents were planning to work at a volunteer activity and I'd be left at home. After a while, they left for the activity. A few minutes later, my Dad called me and, at the latest possible notice, told me that there was a katydid and cricket outing with the OYBC. He asked me if I wanted to go, since there were enough volunteers at his event. At first, I thought, Gee, well that sounds fun, but I'd much rather sit here at home. But after a bit of thinking, I said to myself, Nothing ventured, nothing gained, and quickly changed my mind.

So we went. We were almost late, but that didn't seem to matter. Once we got there, I immediately noted the practically constant buzzing of what I had previously called a "chainsaw-conehead katydid." I asked the expert, Lisa Rainsong, what my chainsaw-conehead is actually called. She told me they were called Round-tipped Coneheads. I was able to get a good, close look at several of them throughout the evening.

I think it was approaching 8:00 when we ventured into the meadow. Just as we were entering the trail, I looked up and saw a Common Nighthawk flying above. It looked very acrobatic, almost like a giant swift. From that point on, though, it was pretty much all about the little critters down in the meadow.

Upon entering the meadow where we were going to search for insects, someone, I think it was Helena, spotted a mantis in the grass. I picked it up, and I identified it as a European Mantis because of the spots on the inside of the forelegs and its small size. To me, European Mantids are really cute little buggos that seem like dogs or something. Anyway, this was a significant find because of the fact that the European Mantis is much smaller than the Chinese Mantis. Chinese Mantids are very large, aggressive, and are indiscriminate hunters. In most areas, Chinese Mantids force out their smaller European counterparts, but not here.

Further on, we saw several different tree cricket species among the foliage, along with a few other species of conehead katydids. One of my favorite crickets that we saw was the Handsome Trig. It is a small cricket with a black body, yellow legs, and a bright red head.

Later on, I found a large female Giant Wolf Spider who was stalking milkweed bugs on a milkweed plant. I decided to hold her. It was an awesome experience and it got even better. A mosquito tried to land on my hand, but unfortunately for the mosquito, the spider saw it and lunged, grabbing it with her fangs. I could feel the force of her pushing onto the mosquito in my hand. A couple seconds later, she hopped off and disappeared into the foliage with the mosquito in her belly.

Having an expert on katydids and crickets along with us was really interesting. One of the topics that we talked about was the apparent effects of earlier springs and later falls on local insect life. For example, several species of crickets and katydids have suddenly started to expand their range northward, so much so that the range maps had to be redrawn.

Later on, I decided to stop and just take in all of the surrounding sounds. The crickets and katydids were performing an awesome chorus and we happened to be right in the middle of the performance. It was amazing, and I'd love to do another event like that again.

Mitchell SanGregory, OYBC Northeast Chapter



OYBC NE Chapter members with Lisa Rainsong.

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS & OUTINGS



BIRDING TOLEDO'S METROPARKS
NW CHAPTER
Saturday, June 15
Oak Openings Metropark



FAMILY POTLUCK PICNIC
NE CHAPTER
Tuesday, July 2
Rocky River Reservation



WATERFOWL BANDING
WITH ODNR
CENTRAL CHAPTER
Saturday, August 17



BIRDING BY KAYAK
OYBC STATEWIDE
FIELDTRIP
Saturday, June 1
The Adaptive Adventure
Sports Coalition (TAASC)

The Central chapter of the OYBC took on birding by kayak on June 1st. This has been an annual event for the Central chapter. Our advisor, Darlene Sillick, coordinates the event with Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition at Twin Lakes. I personally look forward to this event every year. It is one of my favorites and it was the first Ohio Young Birders outing I attended five years ago.



To begin the day we socialized, signed in, and picked out our kayaking equipment. The OYBC, volunteers, and our special guest, Steve Landes, hit the water. As we were waiting, Steve pointed out a Yellow-throated Vireo calling in the distance. Moving along Steve continued to point out singing/calling birds like Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Yellow-throated Vireo. We stumbled upon Prothonotary Warblers at their box. They gave us wonderful views and sang for us as well. We continued back into inlets and then came back to the main part of the water. We headed back as the temperature began to rise. We got back to land and enjoyed our lunches. We then checked the Tree Swallow boxes and Purple Martin rigs. The Tree Swallow boxes had young that aged 2-8 days old. The majority of the Purple Martin gourds had 2-6 eggs adding up to 42 total. We then spent the last hour together walking around campus. We ended up with 50 species for the day. Highlights include Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Pileated Woodpecker.

- Adriana Losey

Across the parking lot and at the mercy of the wind were the birders. They stood at the foot of a large building, the museum known as The Ohio History Connection (OHC). My mother told me I'd been here before when I was young, but for the life of me, I could not remember even the faintest sliver of what was behind its doors.

My thoughts turned back to the group of individuals standing in a circle, the birders. *My birders.* It warmed my heart to see so many of the familiar faces, and I jumped out of the car before the engine stopped humming. I was met instantly with a chorus of "hello's" and "It's Katelyn's!" I answered them with the biggest hugs and smiles I could manage.

Among those who had joined us was a new face; his name was David Dyer. Being a Curator of Natural History at OHC, he was to lead our group on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Natural History Collections Facility, where we would have the opportunity to see nearly 300,000 preserved species of Ohio.



My fellow young birders' eyes twinkled at the thought, and we hopped into a carpool as soon as we could. When we pulled up to our destination, I had a brief moment of thought. *Are we lost?* The buildings we approached -- white, blah, and standing in a patch of cement -- weren't nearly as conspicuous as I imagined.

As we filed through the door to one of the structures, however, it became very clear to me why, perhaps, the buildings were not meant to catch the eye. They were warehouses, filled with thousands of specimens and historical artifacts, a true treasure to protect. I liked the idea of keeping these things hidden, let alone in plain sight along the side of a busy road. No one would ever guess what was stored in these buildings.

Mr. Dyer (photo left) gave a brief, yet thorough, history of his and OHC's involvement with the specimens. He explained that all of the creatures had passed before they had been taken, and lots of bones had come from people like us. Mr. Dyer started with jars of snakes preserved in alcohol, and then showed us carefully prepared bird species like swans, herons, and waterfowl. He proudly showcased the collection of Great Horned Owls, some of them prepared by *the* John Wheaton and dating back to times around the Civil War. We even had the chance to meet, in a sense, the extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Passenger Pigeon, and Carolina Parakeet.

My friends and I wondered what stories those birds could tell us.

Next up, which was in my opinion the most fascinating, were the remains of Woolly Mammoths and Mastodons who had once roamed Ohio.

We got the opportunity to hold the beasts' teeth, which were large and pretty heavy. The Mastodons' teeth had about 4-5 rows of points, while the Woolly Mammoths' teeth resembled a piece of coral or a rock, anything but what it was meant to be. Now I could identify the difference between Mastodons and Woolly Mammoths by teeth!

After examining more elephant-like bones and gaping in awe at the visual representation of their height on the wall (9-11 feet!), we moved along to the dry-freezing lab. There, we were informed by Mr. Dyer how specimens' skeletons are cleaned by meat-eating beetles (who were quite friendly compared to their depiction in movies) and other specimens are preserved by a dry-freezing machine.

Continued on page 12.



Katelyn shows off a Mastodon tooth with 4-5 rows of points.



Mr. Dyer explained fondly how he wished to volunteer when he was our ages and work with the OHC, and how over the years he accomplished his goal after getting his college degree. After that encouraging remark, we set off for the museum's bird feeding station.

As we continued past all exhibits, it struck me that I didn't know much about Ohio's history. I made a note to myself to return; for now, I took in what all I could observe.

Reaching our destination, we took in the surroundings, filled with boxes of rotting wood and feeders of rust. *They sure do need an upgrade!* I was excited to help refresh the place with the OYBC's Central Chapter supplies donated by Tom Sheley, owner Wild Birds Unlimited, and Darlene Sillick.

The general plan was to take down the worn-out feeders and boxes and replace them with new ones. Soon, the area burst into activity as young birders and adults alike split into several working groups, all with a different project to be completed.

I joined my friends Raul, Matthew, and Anna to help install a wooden pole, complete with a huge hopper feeder from Charlie Zepp and baffle given to us by Wild Birds Unlimited. As we braced our creation, another group was in the process of hanging brand new nyjer seed and peanut feeders. A second group prepared a platform feeder, while yet another group installed a new hummingbird feeder.

Slowly, the area was coming into shape. A few people cleared gunk out of the pond, and Raul and I teamed up to take down the old, rotting bird boxes. While we were busy with filling the feeders, a small group set up new bird houses. Within an hour or so, OHC's bird feeding station was up and running with new glamour. And it was a good thing too.

Angry storm clouds loomed over our heads and the wind picked up. The group began to disperse and cars rolled away. I and a few others hovered behind, doing the last little bits of clean up, and finally saying, "See you next time," and "Take care!"

Our team on May 19th hoped the new establishment would attract many birds for visitors to watch and maybe inspire these people to set up their own feeders. I marveled at the prospect that one small effort to aid wildlife could lead to so many more.

OYBC and its friends were planting seeds that day, in a sense. With a gentle blow of wind from the OHC, these seeds were bound to spread and flower into any niche they could find, bringing along bird songs and critters from every corner.

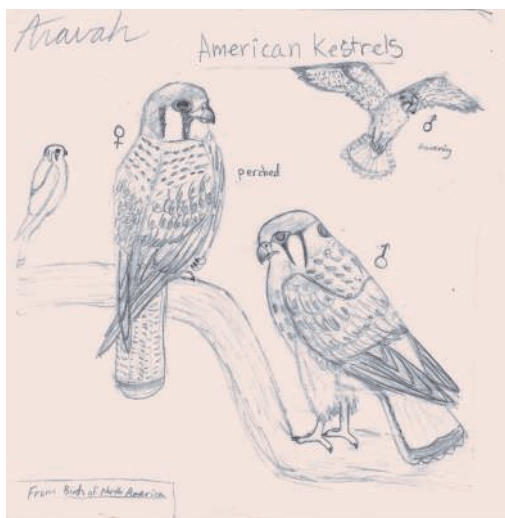
Katelyn Shelton, OYBC Central Chapter
and Youth Advisory Board member



Above: Raul does some heavy lifting.
Below: OHC's newly installed bird feeding station.



OYBC ARTWORK GALLERY



Artwork by Aravah Getzler,
OYBC Central Chapter



Cedar Waxwing photo by Jessica Decker,
OYBC NW Chapter



Above: Broad-billed Hummingbird,
Left: Spotted Owl
Photos by Josh King, OYBC SW Chapter

YOUTH BIRDING CAMPS AND EVENTS



Josh King (left) received the 2019 Theodore A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship sponsored by Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Josh attended Camp Chiricahua in July where he had the opportunity to photograph species he has never seen before. Photos that he captured while at camp can be seen in the Photo Gallery on page 13.

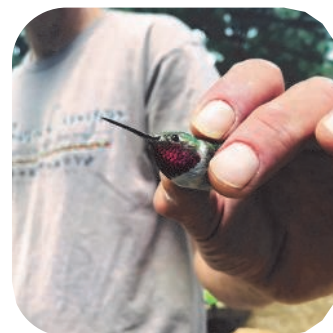


Kaylee McCaskey attended Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Young Birders Event where she had the opportunity to learn sound recording with a parabola (right).

In August, I attended ABA's Camp Colorado at the Estes Park YMCA in the Rocky Mountains. It was a great place to hold a bird camp because there were so many different ecosystems nearby. Each day we got to visit a different ecosystem so we could see lots of different kinds of birds. The field trips included grassland, foothills, riparian, montane, and alpine.

My favorite field trip was to the alpine area because we got to see a White-Tailed Ptarmigan. I also enjoyed seeing the Burrowing Owl on the grassland field trip. Another highlight was bird banding with Scott Rachid (right). We helped band several species of hummingbird.

My trip to Camp Colorado was made possible through scholarships from the American Birding Association, the Ohio Ornithological Society, and OYBC's Hallie Mason Memorial Fund. I am very appreciative of the help I received to attend camp. It was a great experience, and I hope that other OYBC members will get to go in future years.



R aúl Castro-Dean, OYBC Central Chapter

I had the amazing opportunity to venture to Camp Chiricahua this summer. It was truly wonderful experience for me. I was able to grow my relationships with existing friends and make many more. The wildlife was more than I expected. I ended up getting 85 lifers out of a total of 185 bird species. I always recommend camps to everyone because I believe they are life-changing. This was my third camp and made me believe nothing less. Get out there, explore, and meet loving people.

A drian Losey, OYBC Central Chapter and Youth Advisory Board member



Camp Chiricahua group and van photos submitted by Adriana Losey.

VENT'S CAMP CHIRICAHUA 2019

© Josh King



Attending VENT's Camp Chiricahua was, without a doubt, the highlight of my summer this year. From the amazing bird species to the great memories with the other campers, I know that this camp will be something I will remember for years to come. From the moment I landed in Tucson to the last night of the trip, each day of camp was a new adventure with new and exciting species to be found at every stop.

After landing in Tucson and meeting up with the rest of the group, we immediately began birding as we made our way up Mt. Lemmon. Along the way, we saw some of our first species of the trip such as Gila Woodpecker, Black-throated Sparrow, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, and Zone-tailed Hawk. After setting up our campsite at Rose Canyon Lake, we spent the remainder of the day birding the campgrounds, which yielded species such as Yellow-eyed Junco, Red-faced Warbler, Grace's Warbler, and Acorn Woodpecker.

The following morning, our group birded the campgrounds and was treated to some amazing views of several high-elevation species including Grace's Warbler, Painted

Redstart, Bushtit, Olive Warbler, and Pygmy Nuthatch. The rest of the day was spent at various locations on Mt. Lemmon where we sought other bird species that live at these higher elevations. By the end of the day, we had observed several interesting birds and other wildlife like Rivoli's Hummingbird, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Red Crossbill, Abert's Squirrel, Cliff Chipmunk, and Southwestern Fence Lizard.

The next day, we descended Mt. Lemmon and began our long drive to Cave Creek Ranch and the Chiricahua Mountains. The trip was broken up by several stops beginning with Brian Gibbons' house, which produced Lesser Nighthawk, Harris's Antelope Squirrel, and many Costa's Hummingbirds. Later in the day, we stopped at Lake Cochise in Willcox, which held a great variety of birds. Chihuahuan Raven, Mexican Duck, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson's Phalarope, American Avocet, White-faced Ibis, Greater Roadrunner, and Scaled Quail are just a few of the many species we saw at this oasis. By the time we had arrived at Cave Creek Ranch, it was already late in the evening, so I decided to walk around the area in search of owls. Just a few minutes later, I heard the distinct call of an Elf Owl in a nearby tree, which eventually showed itself long enough for me to obtain some photos, which instantly became one of my favorite highlights of the trip.

The next four days were spent in the Chiricahuas and the surrounding area, which hosted some of the greatest diversity of wildlife of the entire trip. The high elevations hosted various species including Mexican Chickadee, Northern Pygmy-Owl, and Black-throated Gray Warbler. In the lower elevations of the Chiricahuas, Elegant Trogon was an obvious favorite for most of the group, but other highlights such as Montezuma Quail, Spotted Owl, Arizona Woodpecker, Inca Dove, and Blue-throated Mountain-gem made this area one of the best parts of the trip. At the base of the mountains and in the surrounding desert, our group encountered a completely different variety of birdlife. Thick-billed Kingbird, Botteri's Sparrow, Bendire's Thrasher, Lucy's Warbler, Pyrrhuloxia, Scott's Oriole, Cactus Wren (photo above), Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, and even a Lucifer Hummingbird were all present in this area. The Chiricahuas were also home to an array of non-avian creatures. White-nosed Coati, Coue's Deer, Collared Peccary, Tarantula Hawk, Desert Tarantula, Solpugid, Arizona Sister, Ornate Tree Lizard, Sonoran Spotted Whiptail, and Common Kingsnake all made appearances throughout the area.

When our time in the Chiricahuas had ended, we made our way towards Sierra Vista and the Huachuca Mountains. Along the way, we made a brief stop at the San Pedro House, where our group added a few new species to our trip list including Western Screech-Owl, Gilded Flicker, Common Ground-Dove, and Rufous-winged Sparrow. The next morning, we made our way to Hunter Canyon in search of Rufous-capped Warbler. After hiking up to a small grove of trees, our group soon located our quarry and was fortunate enough to have great views of this rare and elusive species. After this successful outing, we decided to visit the Sonoita Grasslands where we had numerous grassland species, both avian and non-avian alike. Among these species were Pronghorn, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Burrowing Owl, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, "Lilian's" Eastern Meadowlark, Lark Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Cassin's Sparrow. The following morning, our group headed up to Carr Canyon primarily for the Buff-breasted Flycatchers that breed there. After arriving at our destination, we quickly found several of these localized breeders. Other birds were present, too, with Common Black Hawk and Brown Creeper (Mexican subspecies) being the other highlights. After lunch, our group visited Ramsey Canyon, where Sulfur-bellied Flycatchers, various warbler species, Arizona Gray Squirrel, and a variety of hummingbirds provided great photo opportunities for the group.

The final portion of the trip was based in Patagonia, where we visited the Paton Center for Hummingbirds, which hosted a variety of hummingbirds including Violet-crowned, Black-chinned, Rufous, and Broad-billed Hummingbirds. During our time in this area, we also made a detour to Tubac in search of the Rose-throated Becards that breed there. After a short walk, we soon found at least three becards high in the trees near their nest. This riparian habitat was also home to Gray Hawk, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Phainopepla, Tropical Kingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, and even a surprise Mississippi Kite which all showed well for our group. On the last full day of the trip, we drove to the famous Box Canyon, searching for the rare Five-striped Sparrow that had been present throughout the summer. Upon arriving at our destination, we instantly heard an individual calling across the canyon. After waiting a few minutes, I spotted the bird directly below me, and shortly after that, a couple of young birders and I had very close views of this rare sparrow. After our successful chase, we made our way to the bottom of Madera Canyon in search of another rarity, the Black-capped Gnatcatcher. After an hour of searching unsuccessfully, we returned to our vehicles and worked our way up the canyon to the Santa Rita Lodge, where we enjoyed a large variety of wildlife visiting the large bird feeding station here. Rivoli's, Rufous, Anna's, Black-chinned, and many Broad-billed Hummingbirds swarmed the numerous hummingbird feeders while White-nosed Coati, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lesser Goldfinch, Acorn Woodpecker, Wild Turkey, Varied Bunting, and many other species were present in the surrounding area. As we departed from Madera Canyon, we decided to make one more attempt at the Black-capped Gnatcatcher, and after a little searching, we finally found a female calling low in the trees at eye level, which was the perfect way to end an incredible trip to southeastern Arizona and Camp Chiricahua 2019.

Josh King, OYBC Southwest Chapter

13TH ANNUAL OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

REGISTER NOW!

13th ANNUAL OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 9, 2019
Toledo Zoo & Aquarium

Keynote Speaker: Tom Johnson

Tom Johnson grew up surrounded by birds in central Pennsylvania. Fascinated by science and the outdoors from a young age, and encouraged by his mom and dad, his obsession with birds took hold at an early age. He banded migrant landbirds and owls, conducted point counts for the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, and set off on many road trips to learn about North American birds. Tom was fortunate to complete his undergraduate studies at Cornell University within the inspiring orbit of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Following university, Tom surveyed desert birds in Arizona and California and studied seabirds from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ships between Nova Scotia and the Bahamas. He is an eBird reviewer, a regional editor for *North American Birds*, a regular contributor to *Birding*, and a member of the ABA Checklist Committee.

Now living in Maryland, Tom devotes his energy to recording bird sounds, photographing flying birds, searching for vagrants and puzzling hybrids, night birding, and reading as much as he can. He's an inveterate road tripper and frequently looks for excuses to travel long distances in pursuit of birds and mammals. You might also find him on a boat looking for tubenoses and other seabirds just about anywhere.

Tom loves helping others pursue their passion for birding and the outdoors, and has felt lucky to lead tours for Field Guides around the world since 2014. Though he focuses on the Neotropics and North America, Tom has a diverse schedule that includes Antarctica, India, Australia, and more.

Emcee: Ethan Rising

Student Presentations:

Raul Castro-Dean
Elizabeth Kanzeg
Kaylee McCaskey
Matthew Rice

This Revolutionary Event is for the Whole Family!
Register online at www.OYBC.org, or by phone 419-898-4070

Student Member: \$10.00
Student Non-Member: \$15.00
Adult Supporting Member: \$20.00
Adult Non-Member \$25.00

ConTAC Panel Discussion: Zak Beaver, Helena Souffrant, Katlyn Shelton

Kaufman Photo ID Quiz led by Kenn Kaufman

Kaufman ID Assistants: Jessica Decker, Josh King, Mitchell SanGregory

Special Guest: Daniel Allard, 2018-19 Duck Stamp Winner

Plus:

- ◆ Behind-the-scenes Tours
- ◆ Explore the new Museum of Natural History
- ◆ Cheetah Lunch Buffet
- ◆ Sunday morning walk with The OSU Ornithology Club and bird banding with BSBO staff at Oak Opening Metropark

Hosted by our partners at:



THE OYBC SHOUT-OUT PAGE

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

as of September 1, 2019

STUDENT MEMBERS

Firman Hershberger
Savannah Naujock
Zoltan (Zoli) Onutz
Nathaniel Spector
Owen Thomas
Zachary Willmer

SUPPORTING ADULTS

Richard "Buster" Banish
Andy Spector



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

Congratulations Darlene!

Darlene Sillick is the
recipient of Black Swamp
Bird Observatory's
2019 Conservation
Service Award.



Golden-Wings Publication Schedule 2019-2020

Winter 2020
Spring 2020
Fall 2020

Submission Due Date: November 15, 2019
Submission Due Date: March 15, 2020
Submission Due Date: August 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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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

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.*



ANNUAL OYBC BIG SIT & BIG DAY FUNDRAISER

Help your local chapter get pledges & donations for our annual fundraiser! Our goal in 2019 is to raise \$1,600 to help fund statewide trips and participation in conservation projects and regional young birder conferences! A pledge form is included on page 19. You may copy this form to seek donations from friends and family in support of the OYBC!



BIG DAYS

NE CHAPTER EMERALD NECKLACE BIG DAY

DATE: Sunday, October 6, 2019

TIME: 8:00 AM

LOCATION: Meet at Wendy Park

CENTRAL CHAPTER

DATE: October 19, 2019

START TIME: 8:00 AM

LOCATION: Meet at Blendon Woods Metro Park

BIG SITS

HOLMES-WAYNE CO. CHAPTER

DATE: October 12, 2019

LOCATION: Millersburg, OH

NW CHAPTER

DATE: October 12, 2019

START TIME: 8:00 AM - NOON

LOCATION: Oak Openings Metropark

SW CHAPTER

DATE: October 2019

LOCATION: Grand Lake St. Marys State Park

For more information or to pledge online, please visit the Annual BIG SIT/BIG DAY fundraiser page at www.ohioyoungbirders.org/annual-big-sit-fundraiser-for-oybc

OYBC FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

OCTOBER

BANDING SAW-WHET OWLS ON KELLEYS ISLAND
WITH TOM BARTLETT
NE CHAPTER

NOVEMBER

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE
Saturday, November 9, 2019
Toledo Zoo & Aquarium

DETROIT RIVER HAWK WATCH
NE CHAPTER

DATE: Sunday, November 10, 2019

As a fun thing to do and see after the conference, we will head to the Detroit River Hawk Watch at Lake Erie Metropark just south of Detroit near Rockwood, MI.

NOVEMBER CONTINUED...

2020 PLANNING SESSION

CENTRAL CHAPTER

DATE: November 16, 2019

TIME: 8:00 AM - NOON

LOCATION: Green Lawn Cemetery and Mausoleum.

BSBO LAKE ERIE PELAGIC

DATE: Saturday, November 23

TIME: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Cleveland

DECEMBER

BSBO LAKE ERIE PELAGIC

DATE: Saturday, December 14

TIME: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Cleveland



Ohio Young Birders Club
FOUNDED IN 2006 BY BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY

Ohio Young Birders Club

*Encouraging, Educating, and Empowering
our future conservation leaders.*

Annual "BIG SIT/BIG DAY" Fundraiser



Show Your Support For Nature Education

100% of the proceeds benefit OYBC programs, field trips and conservation projects.
Your support makes a huge difference!

____ I would like to support the education efforts of the Ohio Young Birders Club by making the following tax-deductible pledge per species for the OYBC Big Sit/Big Day:

PLEDGE PER BIRD SPECIES:

____ .25	____ .50	____ .75	____ \$1	____ \$2	____ \$3	____ \$4	____ \$5	____ Other
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____ Rather than a pledge per bird, I prefer to make a tax-deductible donation of \$_____.

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Please mail this form by October 22, 2019 to:
Black Swamp Bird Observatory • 13551 West State Route 2 • Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

3 Easy Ways to Donate:

- 1) You can donate online using PayPal or a credit card at **www.ohioyoungbirders.org**
- 2) You can charge your donation to your credit card by calling 419-898-4070.
- 3) You can donate by check; please make payable to Black Swamp Bird Observatory with OYBC Big Sit/Big Day in memo field.

thank you 😊



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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? _____