



OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

WINTER 2015 - 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"



We had a successful 9th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference at Rocky River Nature Center (RRNC) full of amazing presentations, awesome field trips and bird hikes, cool poster presentations, and fun activities! Also, a special shout out and thank you to Bev Walborn and all of the RRNC & Cleveland Metropark Volunteers that helped us throughout the day! Check out the full story on page 17. (Photo by Mike Zook)

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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
- Robin Parker, OYBC NW
- Debbie Riggs, OYBC SW
- Liz Rising, OYBC SW
- Darlene Sillick, OYBC Central
- Heather Spanbauer, OYBC SW
- 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:
info@ohioyoungbirders.org

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



Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/ohioyoungbirders



Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/ohioyoungbirders

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 youngbirdersnetwork.net

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

OYBC Scholarships Available

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 <http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/ABOUTOYBC/SCHOLARSHIPS.aspx> for an application form,
or call BSBO at 419-898-4070 and we will mail you a form.

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



Adriana Losey stopped by and got to pick-up her OYBC Bird ID Quiz prizes. Kenn Kaufman happened to be in the building and Adriana asked him to sign her book too! Kaufman Field Guides is one of the sponsors and donates prizes for the monthly OYBC quiz. Adriana chose the KFG Advanced Birding Guide and a BSBO winter beanie as her two prizes.

A great big 'Thank You' to Kaufman Field Guides for sponsoring the monthly OYBC Bird ID Quiz!

2016 JANUARY BIRD ID QUIZ: "Gallery of Gulls"



Past OYBC Bird ID Quiz 2015 Winners

June/July : No winner

August/September : Adriana Losey

October/November : Adriana Losey

December : Andrew Strauss

GOLDEN-WINGS

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

**Stephen Bischoff
Eric Day
Tyler Ficker
Miron Gotfryd
Elijah Martineau
Sariah Martineau
Kaylee McCaskey
Ethan Rising
Anna Rose
Helena Souffrant
Andrew Yoder**

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:
Kate Zimmerman

**GOLDEN-WINGS
Proof readers: Ryan Jacob
& Kim Smith**

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 March 1, 2016

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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: STEPHEN BISCHOFF, AGE 17

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

Stephen Bischoff (SB) – My dad was always a hiker and by being outside in bird-rich areas in Texas it was impossible not to start birding. I started birding in 2008.

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

SB – When I lived in Texas I had always had a vague interest in birds, but it wasn't till I moved to Ohio and met Darlene Sillick that my interest really took off. Since then Darlene has gotten me to do many talks and take on three different Bluebird trails.

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

SB – My most recent favorite bird is the Magnificent Hummingbird because of its size and all of the different colors the scales on the throat can generate.

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

SB – My favorite place to bird is south Texas because of the variety of birds there as well as the memories from when I was younger.

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

SB – My greatest birding accomplishment is being a finalist in the American Natural History Museum's young naturalist award. Both awards were on cavity-nesting bird species research.

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

SB – In Texas I was very interested in reptiles and amphibians. That interest has waned some but is still there.

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

SB – I have taken several birding specific trips outside of Ohio. These include Arizona, the Delmarva Peninsula, and the Upper Peninsula in Michigan. Out of these Arizona was definitely my favorite for the sheer number and variety of species.

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

SB – If I could go anywhere I would go to Peru to see a Marvellous Spatuletail hummingbird. They are a beautiful endangered hummingbird species only native to an extremely small part of Peru.

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

SB – I have attended several birding conferences including the Ohio Young Birders Conference as well as the Ohio Avian conference.

GW – Where do you go to school?

SB – I am a senior at Dublin Scioto High School in central Ohio.

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

SB – I plan to go to college at either Ohio State University or Bowling Green University as an environmental science major.

GW – Do you have a job somewhere?

SB – I am a cashier at the Kroger Marketplace in Dublin, Ohio.

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

SB – I have many pets including two dogs (one Brittany Spaniel and one mutt), six snakes of varying species all from Texas, three Russian Tortoises, and a Bearded Dragon.

GW – Do you volunteer anywhere?

SB – I volunteer at The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition as a tour guide for kayaking trips as well as an archery instructor. I also volunteer at the Ohio Wildlife Center helping with programs as a raptor handler.

GW – Are you involved with any birding projects?

SB – I monitor nearly to 70 bird boxes as well as work closely with Darlene Sillick to put up 20 American Kestrel/Eastern Screech Owl boxes in the Columbus area.

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

SB – I keep a life list but it isn't very up to date. I would put it around 380.

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

SB – Being a member of OYBC has changed birding for me in a variety of ways. It has showed me how important it is to help interested kids get involved with nature in general. As well as how important it is not just to see a bird, but to watch it, see what it does and think about why it does it. That is the only true way to understand our feathered friends.



Interested in contributing artwork or being interviewed by GOLDEN-WINGS? Contact the Ohio Young Birders Club at info@ohioyoungbirders.org

Ofentimes when dark wings swoop overhead, excited birders reveal either a beautiful hawk, or just another Turkey Vulture. Wait, rewind! Just a vulture!? These homely birds are so common that sometimes we take them for granted, thinking we know all there is to know about them. They fly around and eat roadkill. Simple, right? Wrong! Before they eat dead stuff, they have to find it. Turkey Vultures have an extremely sensitive sense of smell, able to detect the scent of carrion from high up in the air over a mile away! Because of their great sense of smell, some animal carcasses – such as skunks – are deemed just too stinky for the vultures to eat, and are left for other, less-sensitive scavengers such as crows and sometimes owls.

Contrary to popular belief, vultures do not follow dying animals and people, or even exclusively eat carrion! If food is scarce, Turkey Vultures will nibble on plant matter and insects as well! When they do find palatable carrion, vultures don't just eat it. Vultures have many amazing adaptations that destroy the harmful bacteria and viruses found in their gruesome buffets, keeping diseases from spreading! Most people know how their heads are bald to keep them clean – thwarting bacteria – but did you know that their stomach acid is significantly stronger than that of other birds and animals? Not only does this help them digest their long-dead food, it kills bacteria and viruses, keeping both themselves and animals in contact with vulture droppings safe from diseases. Several vulture personal hygiene habits also kill bacteria, such as spreading out their wings to sunbathe – baking off clinging germs. Another, slightly grosser habit is the practice of urinating on their legs to keep cool in the summer. Their urine is sterile and has uric acid which – here it comes – kills bacteria! Vultures are so helpful at keeping things clean that the Turkey Vulture's Latin name, *Cathartes aura*, means golden purifier!



Top: Turkey Vulture (photo by Mark Shieldcastle);
Bottom: Turkey Vulture in flight at Point Reyes National Seashore, (photo by Ryan Jacob)

Some additional facts about vultures are that they have no syrinx – the bird voice box – and communicate by noises such as grunts and hisses. If threatened, vultures vomit up their last meal, discouraging predators and lightening their bodies for a faster getaway. Turkey Vultures and other American vulture species are more closely related to birds of prey, excluding falcons, than Old World vultures.

Turkey Vultures are very gentle and shy, avoiding people whenever possible. Contrary to this, their more southern cousins Black Vultures – which you may have seen if you live in southern Ohio – are very gregarious, not caring how close they get to humans and even tearing at rubber car parts! Groups of Black Vultures have even been known to gang up on a weak animal and peck it to death. In other words, they are simply not as nice as Turkey Vultures. Black Vultures do not have a good sense of smell like Turkey Vultures, and must follow their northern cousins to carcasses, often shoving their guides away and keeping the food to themselves.

Turkey Vultures put up with this because their beaks are weak and unable to get through tough hide on carrion, whereas Black Vultures have stronger beaks and can easily get through thick skins. Turkey Vultures wait until their partners have torn through a carcass and gorged themselves, then come in and eat whatever's left. Although these are the only two vultures in Ohio, vultures come in 23 species worldwide, some of which are

endangered. When we think of endangered animals, vultures don't usually come to mind. However, the famously endangered California Condor is in the vulture family! Vultures need our help bigtime. Vultures have few natural enemies – with the exception of immatures being taken by Great Horned Owls or Bald Eagles on occasion – but humans are a big threat to the safety of the species. Common causes of death to vultures are car collisions while feeding on roadkill, poisoning from toxins in carrion, and flying into power lines. All these are indirectly caused by humans. We need to spread the word about how amazing vultures are and how important their place in the environment is! Hopefully it will inspire more people to search for ways to help them.



"Deep in the Night"

by

Sariah Martineau

Deep in the night
Where the trees all
Look
And the mist makes
Pictures in the
Air,
The Barred Owl
Spreads its
Wings.

These wings
Beat powerful,
Quiet,
In the deep
Of the night
Where the
Rhythm lives
Strong.

The trees creak,
Crrrr-crrrr-crrrr,
The frogs chirp--
Criik-criik-criik,
The grass rustles,
Telling me:
Rush-rush-rush,
And the Barred Owl
Beats its
Wings.

The rhythm of
The night
Seeps through
The heart of
Every living
Thing.

The barred owl
Beats its
Wings.

Cool fact: Sariah found a picture online that was "free" (meaning the right to modify and use the picture for personal use). She digitally modified this picture into "night" and added her own artistic touch.



Top: Eric's 1st Place photo of a Giant Swallowtail nectaring on Swamp Milkweed; *Middle:* Eric's 2nd Place photo of a Monarch caterpillar hanging in its resting stage known as a "J" as it prepares to pupate into its chrysalis; *Bottom:* Eric posing with his photos and awards at ONWR Visitor's Center



PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Eric Day won 1st and 2nd Place in the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR) Photography Contest! Congratulations, Eric!

Eric (OYBC NW Chapter) submitted two photos he took at ONWR during our August 2015 shorebird field trip. Eric is very interested in nature and wildlife photography. He always brings his camera because you never know when an award winning photo opportunity will just pop up! Eric adds an artistic touch to his Monarch Caterpillar photograph by getting down to the caterpillar's level.

On the evening of August 14, 2015 the NE Chapter went to Frohring Meadows to meet up with Lisa Rainsong. When we first got there we did a bit of birding, including finding some shorebirds near the wetlands. But as it got darker, Lisa gave each of us a jar and showed us the different crickets and katydids we might find there.



Sword-bearing Conehead in Lisa's hand.
(photo by Liz McQuaid)

The kids had a blast running all over the place catching bugs and bringing them to Lisa for identification. We had as many species of crickets and katydids as we did birds! And a fun time was had by all.

Thank you, Lisa, for giving our Young Birders a great experience!



Lisa checks out what Miron and Jake found.
(photo by Liz McQuaid)



Katydid (also known as Bush Crickets)

- Katydid are medium-sized to large insects; they are usually green, sometimes with brown markings. Some species are active during the day, but most are nocturnal.
- They have a thick body, usually taller than it is wide, and long thin legs. The hind legs are longer than the front or middle legs, and are often used for jumping.
- On the head they have chewing mouthparts and long, thin antennae that reach back at least to the abdomen of the insect.
- In all species the front wings have special structures that can be rubbed together to make sounds. They hear these sounds with flat patches on their legs that act as ears.
- Females are usually larger than males, and have a long sharp structure at the end of the abdomen. This looks like a stinger, but it is actually an "ovipositor." They use it for sticking their eggs into the ground or into plant stems.
- There are hundreds of katydid species, and they are found all over the world. Katydid spend most of their lives on the plants that they eat.
- Katydid use sound to communicate across distances. They also use their antennae to touch and smell each other. They can see too!



Lisa is a music teacher at Cleveland Institute of Music, and a naturalist. She is well known in Ohio for her work recording the sounds of singing insects.

Check out her blog at listeninginnature.blogspot.com

Crickets



- Crickets are medium-sized to large insects and have chewing mouthparts. They have rounded heads, antennae that are long and thin, and their wings bend down on the sides of their body. Most crickets are brown, but some are black and some tree crickets are green with whitish wings. There are more than 120 species in the United States.
- Communicating mainly by scent, touch, and sound, male crickets chirp by rubbing their front wings together, their wings have special structures for this. Both males and females have ears, but they are on their legs! They are smooth round structures on their lower legs. Also, they can see but not well.
- Female crickets have a thin round tube on the end of their abdomen that they use to lay their eggs. This structure is called an ovipositor.
- Crickets are found on the soil, hiding under dead plants or on live plants. They only occur where there is plant material to eat. Many crickets are omnivores.
- Like all insects, crickets are affected by the temperature. They are more active and chirp faster and louder on a warm night than on a cold one.

VS



After a long car ride from Ohio, I was very excited for American Birding Association's (ABA) Camp Colorado. The long shuttle ride actually went by pretty fast, and after I got out and stretched, I had already had many life birds. That night was orientation, and afterwards Bill Schmoker gave an overview of the habitats we would be visiting and what birds to expect. I wrote down all of my goal birds for each day, and I was pleased to see most of them got checked off!

The first trip we went on was to Wild Basin, our first of many trips to the montane forest habitat. Some of my personal goals were American Dipper, Dusky Grouse, and Steller's Jay. There were also supposed to be Black Swifts nesting up by a waterfall way upriver. We started off downriver, and headed up, parallel to a fast-moving swirl of water that would hopefully bring us some cool birds. We got some easy birds right off the bat, including Cordilleran Flycatcher and the Gray-headed subspecies of

Dark-eyed Junco. As we headed up the river, we had good looks at Townsend's Solitaire and Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler. Unfortunately we didn't make it up to the Black Swift area so that was a missed ABA Area bird, but I'd like to say we made up for it in a different way. We were headed back toward the vans when Jen Brumfield (a leader from Ohio), another young birder, and I had gone up ahead not knowing that the group had stopped. We looked back at the rest of the group behind us, pointing to a bird that we couldn't see. We moved back a little bit and saw a young American Dipper feeding just across the river from where they were. Jen, Aidan, and I rushed back upriver and got amazing views of the foraging bird. Not a life bird, but much better looks than my first bird. The rest of the morning was pretty slow except for a MacGillivray's Warbler nest with a female tending to it.

After lunch at the YMCA, the weather wasn't very good so we decided to bird around the YMCA. We focused around the dorms and the feeders, getting some nice birds like Cassin's Finch and Pygmy Nuthatch. After dinner and a quick talk, we headed to the dorms so we could get some rest for the next day.

Wednesday was supposed to be alpine day, but because of bad weather we decided to do another day in more montane habitats. We went to the Endovalley in the morning hoping to pick up some different birds. One of the first things we saw was a Red-naped

Sapsucker nest next to the parking lot. As we walked along the path we had good looks at MacGillivray's Warbler, a Western Wood-pewee, and a young Black-headed Grosbeak. We reached a waterfall area and were happy to see another cooperative American Dipper, giving very good views. It would be at the top of the waterfall (presumably feeding a young bird) and then come down towards us to get more food. The bird was eating small insects, mostly mayflies. On the way back to the vans everyone got good looks at a Warbling Vireo on its nest.

After lunch in the field, we headed to a different spot where we studied the aspen trees and learned how elk affected them. The elk actually chew the bark off of the aspens which over time kills the plants. We were able to look at an aspen grove that had an elk-proof fence around it and compare the trees and how dense the uneaten trees were. We also learned that the

"groves" were actually one or two plants and that the aspen shoot out of the ground in different places and have one central root system. The aspen proved to be good for cavity nesters. We found Violet-green and Tree Swallow nests and more Red-naped Sapsucker nests. At this spot we also had good looks at a male Wilson's Warbler that was foraging in some Ponderosa Pine trees, which proved to be the most common tree in the Estes Park area from what we could tell. My

favorite experience of the day, however, was actually when we were leaving. I was in the back van and a camper in the front van claimed to have seen a Dusky Grouse on the left side of the road. We

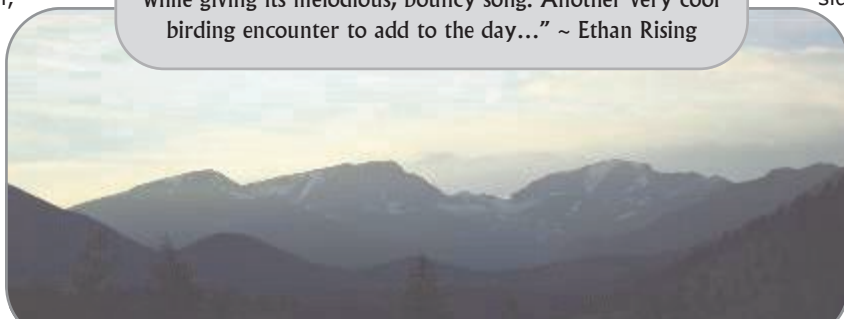
immediately stopped and went back, and sure enough, a female Dusky Grouse was walking parallel to us, tending five young chicks. Everyone with any type of camera got great photos, and it was one of my favorite birding experiences that I've ever had. When we got back to the YMCA, we ate dinner and were told to go to bed as early as possible because the

next day was the Camp Colorado Challenge! The Camp Colorado Challenge is essentially a Big Day, where you have a time limit and you try to see as many birds as possible in that limit. The 2014 record was 89, a number that's pretty hard to beat in Colorado in July.

We woke up at three thirty or so in the morning. We made a quick stop an hour or two later at a gas station where we picked up some city birds plus a few Bald Eagles. Soon after, we stopped to



"...When we got out of the vans, we saw a few McCown's Longspur but as we headed out into an adjacent field, we witnessed this bird's unique display. The displaying longspurs started on the ground. They would fly upwards, almost hover, and then slowly come back to the ground in a diagonal line, seemingly floating while gliding, all the while giving its melodious, bouncy song. Another very cool birding encounter to add to the day..." ~ Ethan Rising



Top: American Dipper ; Bottom: Estes Park, CO (photos by Ethan Rising)

CAMP COLORADO ADVENTURE CONTINUED ...

look for Mountain Plover near Pawnee Grasslands, our main birding spot for the day. After a while, Raymond VanBuskirk (one of the leaders and a Leica representative) pulled one out of thin air, it seemed. The Mountain Plover was pretty far out, and I was one of the last ones to see it. It was a pale brown bird against a pale brown background. Not the greatest views ever, but still a really cool bird. Afterwards we ate breakfast at the Crow Valley Campground where we picked up some extra birds like Bullock's Oriole, Loggerhead Shrike, and Great Horned Owl. We then headed towards Pawnee, getting good views of Lark Bunting and Grasshopper Sparrow. Some non-bird sightings: It was personally interesting to see cacti in Colorado. You think of them as being much farther south and I was surprised when I saw how many there are out on the grasslands. We also found a Short-horned Lizard, which can shoot blood out of its eyes, but didn't (bummer, right?). We also saw a family of Swift Foxes, a really cool mammal to add to the list, along with the abundant Pronghorn that roamed the fields.

On the way to a different spot, we encountered a few new birds. A territorial American Avocet was circling the vans and giving a good show for everyone in the group. We also got amazing scope views of eight different Burrowing Owls. Farther down the road we had good views of the elusive Brewer's Sparrow. Once we reached our destination, we saw a distant Ferruginous Hawk which was one of our sought-after raptors for the day.

When we got out of the vans, we saw a few McCown's Longspur but as we headed out into an adjacent field, we witnessed this bird's unique display. The displaying Longspurs started on the ground. They would fly upwards, almost hover, and then slowly come back to the ground in a diagonal line, seemingly floating while gliding, all the while giving its melodious, bouncy song. Another very cool birding encounter to add to the day. After lunch, which yielded no new birds except for Yellow Warbler and a flyover Franklin's Gull that only one camper besides me saw. We would have passed this off as a California Gull but I checked my distant photo and it had a black head and dark primaries. We stopped at Fossil Creek Reservoir, where we picked up some ducks and I got my lifer Say's Phoebe and Clark's Grebe. Back at the YMCA we picked up some final birds including Northern Goshawk and Band-tailed Pigeon. Time was called and we stopped birding and counted species. After double and triple checking the count, the total was... 93!!! I had predicted much lower and was pleasantly surprised!

After revealing that Raymond VanBuskirk had guessed the exact number, we had a talk about his Rosy-Finch project when he was a young birder living in New Mexico. New Mexico seems like an arid state, but the most north-central part gets very cold and one spot

in particular hosts the three species of Rosy-Finch in the winter. Raymond talked about how he and a few friends were very young and out of the blue thought "Hey, let's band these birds and learn about them." Almost no research had been done on these intriguing birds, and as soon as Raymond and his friends got

banding permits, they started making intricate traps to catch the Rosy-Finches. After years of research and learning so much about Gray-crowned, Brown-capped, and Black Rosy-Finches, they had banded thousands of birds, some of which were at least 8 years old. This was my favorite talk of Camp Colorado because it showed that you don't have to have any special criteria or loads of money or be a certain age to really do something in the name of conservation. I think his talk empowered all the campers to use their knowledge of nature to protect it. After my mind was completely blown and I was inspired, I finally was able to go to sleep and get some rest before Friday, our tundra day.

We woke up pretty early and after breakfast, we headed out and began birding at the Medicine Bow Curve. The campers learned about different subspecies of White-crowned Sparrows and American Pipit. I was more surprised about the *alticola* American Pipit because the colors seemed very out of place and the

differences were very obvious. As we walked along, someone at the front of the group spotted one of the day's target birds: a White-tailed Ptarmigan! This is a very habitat-specific bird and hard to find due to its camouflage. We watched the bird (a male) and it flew, joining a female and walking across the trail. The birds proceeded to feed within 20 feet of us. Everyone got stellar looks! We drove to another spot afterwards, where we immediately got Brown-capped Rosy-Finch. There were two females and one male, and despite the cold temperatures and stiff wind, everyone was super excited! After a stop at Lily Lake to look for American Three-toed Woodpeckers (we found zero) we went to the Fawn Brook Inn to look at hummingbirds. At any given moment there could be up to 40 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds at the Inn. We also saw two Rufous and two Calliope Hummingbirds there.

The next day was our final birding day, and we descended into a lower elevation area. We were looking for species such as Lazuli Bunting, Rock Wren, and Bushtit. Right off the bat we got Lazuli Bunting and Rock Wren, and also good looks at Canyon Wren. We went on and it was cool for me to see the differences between CO's Spotted Towhee vs. my Eastern Towhee. Later that day, we were able to see Prairie and Peregrine Falcon, as well as the magnificent Golden Eagle. After that, we had dinner and it was time to pack up! The next day was "shuttle-to-the-airport" day, and most people left early. I however, got to drive home to Cincinnati, Ohio, without air conditioning. Needless to say I didn't care that much, seeing as I had just had one of the greatest weeks of my life!



Top: Broad-tailed Hummingbird;
Bottom: White-tailed Ptarmigan
(photos by Ethan Rising)





Allen's Hummingbird
by Anna Rose

*"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song."
~ Maya Angelou*

Mallard
by May Martineau



Eastern Towhee
by Anna Rose



Above: Bald Eagle
by Anna Rose

Right: American Robin
by Anna Rose



MEDINA RAPTOR CENTER BY HELENA SOUFFRANT, AGE 12



The first stop on July 24, 2015 for the Northeast Chapter was the Letha House Park. We birded a prairie-like trail. The trail was a small grass path with tall wildflowers all around us. The wildflowers were almost as tall as me! Butterflies and other small insects were everywhere. Some of the birds we saw were American Goldfinches, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Chipping Sparrows, Chimney Swifts, an Indigo Bunting, and an Eastern Bluebird. My favorite bird was the Eastern Bluebird. It was a life bird for me! It was fun to watch the butterflies dance around the wildflowers. They were so colorful! Blue, yellow, black, and orange! We saw Eastern Tiger Swallowtails, Monarchs, and Viceroy's.

The last stop of the day was the Medina Raptor Center (MRC). Matt McCarron organized a collection for the MRC during the winter and they were so appreciative of our donations that they offered our group the opportunity to come down for a special program to meet some of their resident birds. The MRC is a rehabilitation center for birds. The center takes in injured birds and when they are healed, they are banded and released. The workers banded a Great Horned Owl, a juvenile Bald Eagle, a juvenile Broad-winged Hawk and juvenile Red-shouldered Hawks. We got to see the rehab staff release a Red-shouldered Hawk back into the wild. It was really exciting to watch the hawk fly off by itself!



Top: Talons of a Great Horned Owl that was being banded. These talons have a mere 1,000 pounds per square inch of gripping power; Middle: Tim holding a Red-shouldered Hawk that was banded prior to being released at different locations. Thanks to Tim Jasinski and the staff at the MRC for showing us these magnificent birds. Left: Letha House park was lovely with plenty of butterflies.



Above: Darlene Sillick taught us about cavity-nesting birds and we got to help her monitor Tree Swallow boxes; Right: Adriana holds a nestling so Darlene can band it; Far Right: Young birders from several chapters paddling the Scioto River together.



BIRDING BY KAYAK IN CENTRAL OHIO



SAVE THE DATE!
Birding by Kayak • Powell, OH • June 4, 2016 • 8:30 a.m.

FALL MIGRATION ADVENTURE IN WAYNE COUNTY BY ANDREW YODER

We learned really cool facts about some of the local plants in addition to seeing lots of cool birds.
Thank You, Karen Geiser, for taking the time to teach us about plants!

The weather didn't look too nice to go birding. It rained all night and was still cloudy with a few showers. But it didn't rain while we were out.

They were coming to our place on CR 229 near Fredericksburg for the first time.

We started off with some common species like Cedar Waxwings and a Swainson's Thrush. We didn't get any warblers till we were about half way through. Then we had some luck. Altogether we had Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Mourning Warbler. We didn't all see the Mourning Warblers but there were two females seen. We also had one Red-eyed Vireo, two Wood Thrushes, one Great Blue Heron migrant, some Least Flycatchers, Eastern Wood Pewee and a Common Tern. We didn't all get to see that one. On the way back we saw fourteen Flickers fly up from the ground. We also saw Barn Swallows, Chimney Swifts, Gray Catbird, and a Brown Thrasher.

There were ten of us. We started at 7:30 and came back at 10:45. We walked about two miles and got 56 species altogether. That wasn't too bad. We all had a good time looking for birds and plants too, as Karen Geiser whose boys are OYBC members, joined us on this walk to point out some of the plants and tell us about their medicinal value.

We learned about well known plants such as burdock, nettles and plantain. And also lesser known plants like lobelia, boneset and self-heal. We now know that all plants in the mint family have square stems. Very interesting.



"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

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."
-Henry David Thoreau



Conserving and restoring native habitats is important to support the nesting and foraging requirements for birds. These habitats are also important for those who enjoy birding. Wetland habitats—some of the most diverse habitats in the world—are needed to host a wide array of wetland birds.

This past year I was lucky enough to “shadow” an environmental engineer who works for my county’s drain commissioner for a day and see what kind of work he does. Environmental engineering (a field I hope to study when I go to college) is defined as “an engineer that applies engineering principles to improve and maintain the environment for the protection of human health and at-risk ecosystems”. He took me to several of the past projects that the drain commissioner’s office completed along with current and future projects. First, we drove to two of the short-term projects. We visited a drain that was reportedly clogged and a drain that had a tree fall into it. One of the most interesting past projects was next. We visited a neighborhood that had had some trouble with flooding basements and needed a solution. The drain commissioner’s office designed an amazing system that drained most of the neighborhood’s water to one central location. They lowered the elevation of the area, and let the water into that. It contained several draining pools each at a lower elevation than the last. When one overflowed it went into the next and so on. They made the level system to solve the drainage problem, but didn’t stop there. They filled the area with different native plants, making the pools and forests into bird and wildlife havens inside of the large neighborhood. While designing it they focused on wetland birds and other wetland wildlife. While there I saw several wading birds including a Great Blue Heron and a Great Egret, which were good birds for a neighborhood in the Lansing (MI) area. The second place that I went to had similar problems, but without enough space to create a draining pool system. They came up with the idea of rain gardens for houses in the area. A rain garden is a lowered area with water loving plants. They strove for beautiful native plants, so that the people that owned the houses were pleased with the gardens.

Humans often create housing, industrial buildings, and cities without foresight for their own environmental needs or those of surrounding wildlife. Environmental engineers can help to bring the wildlife back indirectly by recreating wetlands that were displaced in a different area. Wetlands bring bugs and amphibians, which attract the wading birds and other wetland birds such as sparrows and some warblers. Most bird enthusiasts might try for a career in ornithology, ecology, or fisheries and wildlife, but I don’t think that’s for me. I enjoy planning, building, problem solving and nature, so environmental engineering seems a perfect fit for me. It offers a way to incorporate all of those interests into one job. I hope that others might want to do this too because it means more people being thoughtful in advance about human development.



Example of urban rain garden as a median strip between roads.

Residential Rain Garden

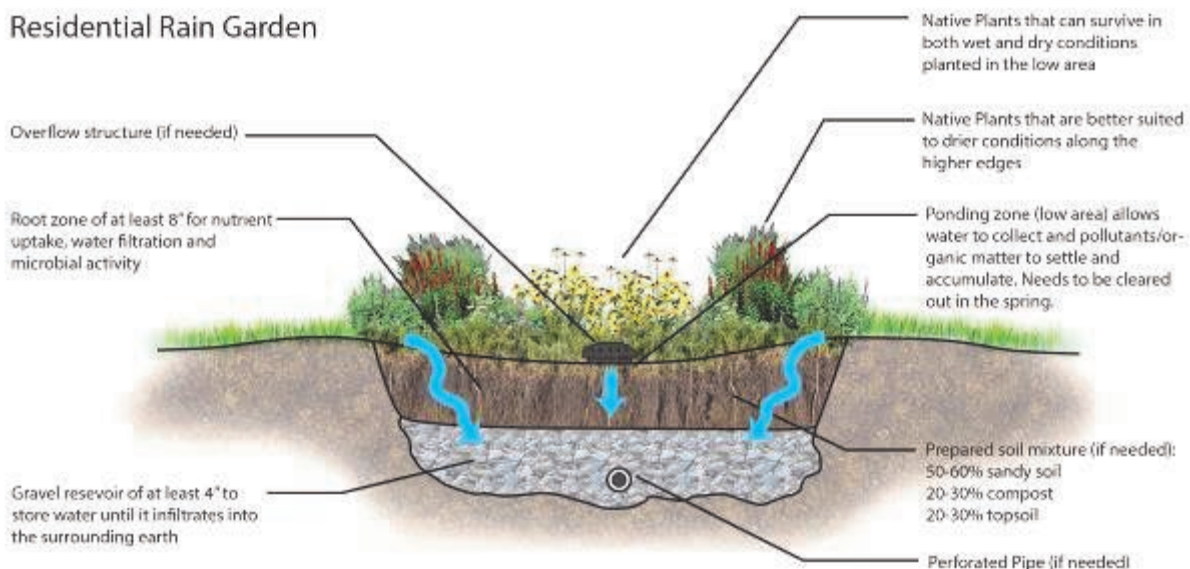


Diagram of residential rain garden from www.holemanlandscape.com

PHOTOS IN FLIGHT WITH TIM DANIEL

Bella Little got an amazing opportunity this winter! She was able to spend the day and shadow Tim Daniel, who is a photographer for Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR), to learn more about a career in photography and ODNR. What was even cooler is that their mode of transportation was a helicopter!

"Our day began with an aerial photo survey of Buckeye Lake in Licking County. We spotted two Bald Eagles and dozens of waterfowl while we were up in the air. Afterwards we went to Killdeer Plains and Big Island Wildlife Area to get shots of the landscape/habitats and the wildlife that use that area, for use in ODOW's social media and Wild Ohio magazine. While at Big Island we checked on a previously-active Barn Owl nest to see if there were any signs of the birds roosting this winter. The owls weren't there but there were plenty of fresh pellets to indicate that it was being used for a winter roost. It was indeed a great day!"



Bella Little getting first hand experience of what it is like to work as a photographer for the Ohio Division of Natural Resources. (photos by Tim Daniel)

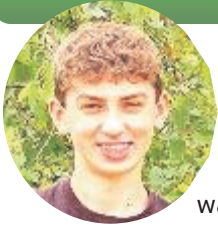
YOUNG BIRDERS GIVE BACK: VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE PROJECTS

This past December several OYBC Central Chapter young birders, Stephen Bischoff, Bella Little, and Adriana Losey, along with Darlene Sillick (OYBC Advisor), had a blast volunteering at several children's events at Cardinal Health and Ohio Wildlife Center (Christmas with the Critters). They had about four tables full of educational props and some live mammals, snakes, and turtles –which were a big hit, by the way. Stephen answered lots of questions about snakes and turtles since he owns various reptiles and amphibians (read all about it in the Young Birder Interview on page 4). Bella and Adriana taught lots of kids about wildlife and birds using their hides, skulls, mounted birds, and wings. Learning how to educate the public about our wildlife and birds is an important skill to have. Our young birders did a fantastic job!



A big THANK YOU to our Central Chapter Sponsor, Columbus Audubon, for helping us purchase the necessary supplies! And, a THANK YOU shout-out to the parents that helped transport young birders and equipment/supplies to ONWR!

REVIEW OF THE WARBLER GUIDE APP BY TYLER FICKER, AGE 18



Princeton University's "The Warbler Guide App" offers many great features for anyone hoping to begin learning or deepen their knowledge on warblers. Immediately when opening the app, there is a list of all of the warblers which can be found across the country, both common and rare. For each individual warbler, there are several ways to view the warbler by tapping the three horizontal lines in the upper left hand corner. You can either view a 2-dimensional side view of the warbler, a close-up of the face, a 3-dimensional model that can be rotated to view the warbler at every angle, an underneath view, or a view of the underside of the tail alone. On the long page of warblers, each warbler has two thumbnails, a breeding and a non-breeding plumage, depending on the time of year you observe the warbler. Next to every name, there is the option to play its song too.

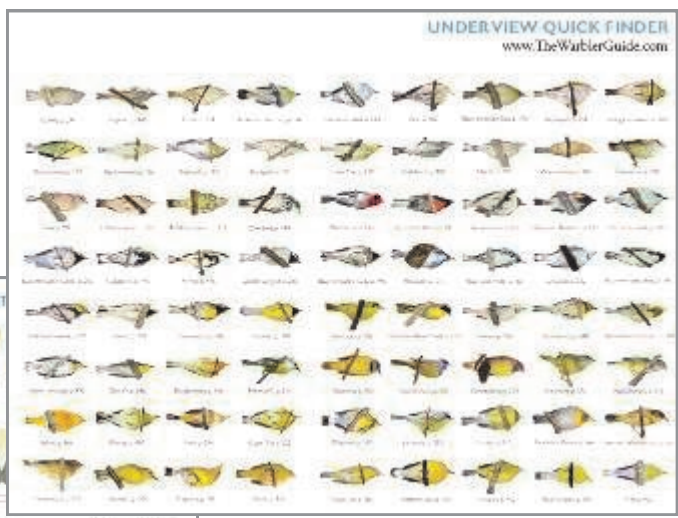
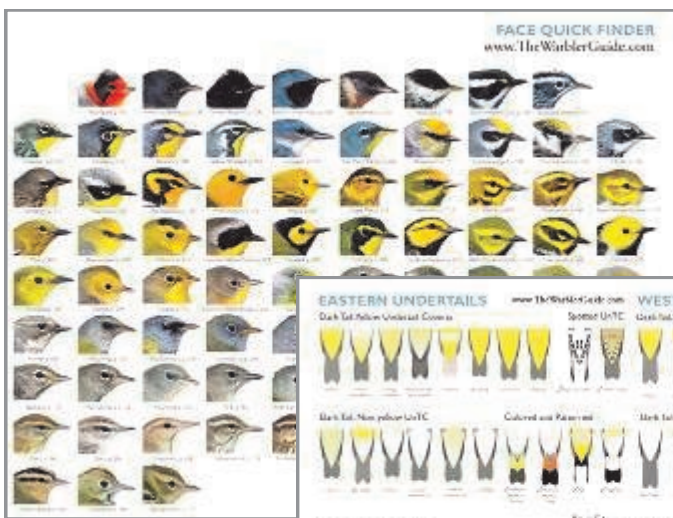


"When it comes to warblers, regardless of your location in the U.S., the \$13 for the app is absolutely worth it" ~ Tyler Ficker

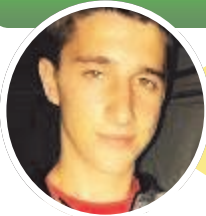
When you click on a warbler to open the individual page for that warbler, there is a large image at the top of the page that you can scroll between the views. Right under the main photo, there are two similar species photos for you to easily eliminate the similar species. There are five tabs for more information on the species. The overview tab tells just the basic structure of the bird, some basic field marks and some photos of different views. Next, there is a tab of all the songs and call notes to choose from. There is another tab containing many photos of the bird. The next tab contains information on how to age and sex the bird. The final tab is a range map with colors for main and fringe summer range, main and fringe winter range, migration range, and year-round range.

This app is very detailed with every species and is great for birders of any level. If you are new to warblers or want to further your studies, this is a great app. When it comes to warblers, regardless of your location in the U.S., the \$13 for the app is absolutely worth it! Currently only available for iOS platform; an Android version is in the works.

Not able to download The Warbler Guide App...Don't worry! Check out these downloadable (jpeg & pdf) identification guides you can print from The Warbler Guide's website (www.thewarblerguide.com).



9TH ANNUAL OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE



Master of Ceremony:
Tyler McClain



May Martineau
"Saving the Wilderness
One Boardwalk at a Time"



Matt Kappler
"Camp Colorado 2015"



Adriana Losey
"Little Gull &
Other Adventures "



Anna Rose
"Birding with the Web:
Using eBird"



Doug Whitman
"Toucans, Tourists, & Trashcan
Tarantulas: My Summer in Ecuador"



Izabella Little
"My Photographic
Big Year "



Keynote Speaker: Marky Mutchler
"Birding: The Next Generation "

Marky (Liberty, Missouri) presented on the importance of getting today's youth interested in birds for the future of bird conservation and enjoyment of birds



Kaufman Bird ID Moderator:
Ethan Rising



Kaufman Bird ID Assistant:
Matt McCarron



Kaufman Bird ID Assistant:
Elijah Martineau



Kaufman Bird ID Assistant:
Jethro Geiser

**A great big
THANK YOU
to our sponsors!**



*We are very grateful to
Cleveland Metroparks &
Rocky River Nature Center
for hosting this year's
OYBC conference!*

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

**OYBC NE Chapter
Wintering Owls & Hawks at Killdeer Plains
Saturday, February 6, 2016**

TIME: 1 PM to Dusk
LOCATION: Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area
(Harpster, OH 43323)

**OYBC Holmes County Chapter
Morning Bird Walk & Barn Owl Nest Box Building
Saturday, February 13, 2016**

TIME: TBD
LOCATION: TBD

Contact Michael Hershberger to sign-up at (330) 231-6689

**OYBC SW Chapter
Cincinnati Zoo Aviary
Monday, February 15, 2016**

TIME: 9:45 AM to 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Cincinnati Zoo
(3400 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45220)

Limited number, please RSVP.

**OYBC Central Chapter
Wintering Raptors at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area
Sunday, February 21, 2016**

TIME: 1 to 5 PM
LOCATION: Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County
(19100 County Highway 115, Harpster, OH, 43323)

If you need a ride to the area please contact Tim Daniel
(tdaniel123456@gmail.com) and he can make arrangements
for a pick up point in the Columbus area.

**OYBC NE Chapter
Cuyahoga Valley National Park-Horseshoe Pond
Saturday, March 3, 2016**

TIME: 8:30 to 11:30 AM
LOCATION: Cuyahoga Valley National Park
(Major Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264)

**OYBC SW Chapter
Waterfowl, Gulls, & Terns at East Fork
Saturday, March 12, 2016**

TIME: 9:30 AM to Noon
LOCATION: Lake Erie Marshes
(3294 Elklick Road, Bethel, OH 45106)

**OYBC Central Chapter
Purple Martin Service Project & Bird Hike
Saturday, March 19, 2016**

TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Dawes Arboretum
(7770 Jacksontown Rd, Heath, OH 43056)

**OYBC Holmes County Chapter
Waterfowl at Funk Bottoms & Killbuck Marsh
Saturday, March 19, 2016**

TIME: 7 AM to 2 PM
LOCATION: TBD

Contact Michael Hershberger to sign-up at (330) 231-6689

**OYBC NW Chapter
Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the Lake Erie marshes
Saturday, March 26, 2016**

TIME: 9:30 AM to Noon
LOCATION: Lake Erie Marshes (western basin of Lake Erie)

We will car pool from Olander Park at 8:30 AM, or meet us
at Maumee Bay Nature Center at 9:30 AM. Please RSVP and
indicate if you would like to car pool.

**OYBC Central Chapter
Behind-the-Scenes Tour -OSU Mus. of Biol Divers
Saturday, April 9, 2016**

TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Ohio State University
(1315 Kinnear Rd, Columbus, OH 43212)

Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Ohio State
University (OSU) Museum of Biological Diversity and learn
how to make a study skin. Then we will go on a bird hike at
the Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland
Research Park.

**OYBC NE Chapter
Birds of Sandy Ridge-Lorain County Metroparks
Sunday, April 10, 2016**

TIME: 9 AM to Noon
LOCATION: Sandy Ridge Reservation
(6195 Otten Rd, North Ridgeville, OH 44039)

**OYBC NW Chapter
Early Spring Migrants (New Member Family Month)
Saturday, April 23, 2016**

TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Lourdes University

**OYBC NE Chapter
Young Birders Walk at Lake Erie Bird Day
Saturday, April 30, 2016**

TIME: 9 to 11 AM
LOCATION: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
(28728 Wolf Rd, Bay Village, OH 44140)

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is having a special new
event this coming April called "Birds of Lake Erie Day." Our
NE Chapter young birders will represent the OYBC at this
event as well as lead a family bird hike in the morning.

**OYBC SW Chapter
Off to Indiana We Go!
Saturday, April 30, 2016**

TIME: TBD (full day)
LOCATION: Versailles, Indiana

We will meet up with members of the Indiana Young Birders
Club to visit a 400 acre privately-owned farm near
Versailles, Indiana. The farm boasts a diverse mix of
habitats and has attracted more than 200 species of birds.
Please contact Liz Rising (lizrising1@gmail.com) to RSVP
and for meet-up location and field trip times.

THE OYBC SHOUT OUT PAGE

WELCOME TO ALL OF THE NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS

as of January 15, 2016

STUDENT MEMBERS

Luke Bornhorst
Elliot Bowen
Will Chandler
Faith Hagerty
Travis Kaye
Kali Sites
Andrew Strauss
Hannah Thomas
Luke Weisgerber

ADULT SUPPORTERS

Seth Berry
Tamara Chandler
Karen Hagerty
Diana Steele



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



Have you renewed your OYBC
membership for 2016?

Visit

www.ohioyoungbirders.org
to renew TODAY!

!! SAVE THE DATE !!

10th 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 Kate Zimmerman - katezimmerman@bsbo.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!

Thank you to all of our OYBC SPONSORS!

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Association of Ohio
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Columbus Audubon Society

Kaufman Field Guides

Kirtland Bird Club

Ohio Ornithological Society

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County

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



Black Swamp Bird Observatory

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City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

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If Student, Date of Birth: _____

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

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

\$ _____ Membership Dues (calendar year)

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

- ___ \$ 10 - Student
- ___ \$ 20 - Supporting Adult
- ___ \$ 100 to \$1000 - Sponsorship Level

How did you hear about us? _____

Are you interested in volunteering? How? _____

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