



## OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

WINTER 2019

ENCOURAGING, EDUCATING, AND EMPOWERING  
OUR YOUTH CONSERVATION LEADERS



Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Ohio Young Birders Club held the 12th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference on November 3, 2018 at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC). Sunny crisp days and the GIAC set in the Scioto Metropark with a backdrop of downtown Columbus provided the perfect atmosphere. Over 130 participants attended the sold-out event and enjoyed morning activities including a bird walk, field sketching workshop, and Lights Out Buckeyes—a conservation project of the OSU Ornithology Club. At the heart of the conference were the stunning presentations by top-notch young birders and bird ID quiz assistants that inspired an audience filled with OYBC members, mentors, and supporters. The most important message of the day was to follow where your own path may lead and to embrace what you feel passionate about!

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# OYBC SCHOLARSHIPS

## Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

### Statewide Coordinator

Laura Guerard

### Chapter Coordinators

Jamie Cunningham, Northwest  
Maria Dellapina, Central  
Alex Eberts, Statewide  
Warren Grody, Central  
Michael Hershberger, Holmes-Wayne Co.  
Paul Hershberger, Holmes-Wayne Co.  
Liz McQuaid, Northeast  
Kelly Milewski, Northwest  
Ann Petrushka, Central  
Debbie Riggs, Southwest  
Darlene Sillick, Central  
Mike Sustin, Northeast  
Patty Toneff, Northwest  
Bev Walborn, Northeast  
Katie Ware, Northwest  
Alicia Wilhelmy, Southwest

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

### Bird Observatory

*Teaming Research With Education To Promote Bird Conservation*

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

13551 West State Route 2  
Oak Harbor, OH 43449  
419-898-4070

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

Visit us at:

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[www.bsbo.org](http://www.bsbo.org)

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## 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](http://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.



## Young Birders Network

The **Cornell** Lab  
of Ornithology



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

## Welcome New Advisors!



### Jamie Cunningham, Northwest Co-Advisor

Hello! My name is Jamie Cunningham and I hail from the Lima area. I have been birding for about 5 years and it was the Biggest Week festival, right here in NW Ohio, that got me started in this wonderful hobby! I have always loved nature, but there's something really special about birds and the people who enjoy them. I enjoy traveling to new places to bird and specifically enjoy the photography aspect of the hobby. I currently live in Elida, OH, with my husband, Jeff, and 3 kids-Emalee, Kylie, and Mason. I am excited to be a part of the OYBC team!



### Warren Grody, Central Co-Advisor

Warren Grody became a birder by accident. On a lark, his wife Linda bought him a pair of Bushnell 10 x 50 binoculars for Christmas. Not long after, he identified an American Coot in his community pond, and he was hooked. Since then, he has volunteered for Columbus Audubon at Green Lawn Cemetery for the past decade, served two terms on the CA Board (during which he was Treasurer for two years), and chaired the John Wilson Memorial Education Fund since its inception. In his spare time, Warren is an education lawyer at the law firm of Bricker & Eckler.



### Kelly Milewski, Northwest Co-Advisor

I have been working for Metroparks Toledo on and off since 2001 and currently serve as an Environmental Education Specialist. My favorite part of my job is that I get to connect people to nature. I also enjoy that my job is different every day and that I get to work all over Lucas County in our 16 parks that are currently open. We also have several parks that will be opening in the near future. I enjoy birding, hiking, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, camping, yoga, and anything outside. I'm excited that I get to be a part of the OYBC and connect young birders to our beautiful Metroparks.



### Katie Ware, Northwest Co-Advisor

I was first inspired to bird while attending camps with BSBO when I was very young. Since then, I continue to bird, loving owls the most. I graduated with my BS in Animal Science and Biology from The University of Findlay in 2015. After graduating, I worked as a Naturalist with the Hancock County Park District, and I currently work as a Conservation Biologist at the Toledo Zoo. I help restore urban prairies in the Toledo

area, rear and release federally endangered butterflies and sturgeon, and conduct turtle and snake surveys. I'm very excited to learn from all of the talented young birders as an advisor!

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

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

Contact Laura Guerard for more information: [lauraguerard@bsbo.org](mailto:lauraguerard@bsbo.org) or 419-898-4070

## GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Alex Burke  
 Andrew Hershberger  
 Elizabeth Kanzeg  
 Travis Kaye  
 Adriana Losey  
 Kaylee McCaskey  
 Christi Price  
 Dani Price  
 Matthew Rice  
 Katelyn Shelton  
 Mariana Thomas

**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 March 15, 2019**

**Email:**  
[info@ohioyoungbirders.org](mailto:info@ohioyoungbirders.org)

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 13551 W. State Route 2  
 Oak Harbor, OH 43449

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**Cover Photo:**  
 12th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus.

# FEBRUARY BIRD ID PHOTO QUIZ: BABY BIRDS BY TRAVIS KAYE

## Ready to test your Bird ID skills?

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

### Directions:

Travis worked with each of these birds while volunteering at the Bird Center of Washtenaw County Rehabilitation Center in Michigan. He has included hints for each species pictured. Identify each baby bird species from the rehab center.

Travis Kaye is a 15-year-old high school sophomore who lives in Huntington Woods, Michigan. He has been an avid birder since the age of nine and has been an enthusiastic nature photographer since the age of 13.



**Picture 1:** This swallow has a forked tail and is commonly found flying over fields. This bird is widely found throughout the United States.

**Picture 2:** This swallow has a squared-off tail and a dark throat.

**Picture 3:** This bird is in the thrush family and is known for nesting in nest boxes.

**Picture 4:** This bird is found throughout all of Ohio and is known for having the song Cheer Cheer.

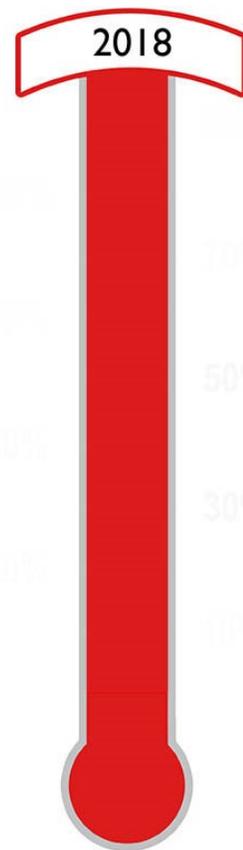
**Picture 5:** This bird is in the same family as the Rock Pigeon and its song is often mistaken for an owl.

**Picture 6:** This bird is one of the fastest flying birds in the world and is often found roosting in chimneys throughout migration.

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

# BIG SIT / BIG DAY FUNDRAISER

Thank You to everyone who made a pledge to support nature education & helped us reach BEYOND our Big Sit/Big Day fundraising goal to raise \$2,221!



The OYBC program strives to instill more than just good birding skills. We want to teach our members the importance of supporting bird conservation and being good stewards of the natural world. This year the Big Sit/Big Day Fundraiser efforts of our student members allowed us to donate \$1,000 to Lights Out Buckeyes—a conservation project of the Ornithology Club at Ohio State. This Columbus-based initiative is part of the statewide Ohio Lights Out program which raises awareness about the dangers that bright nighttime lights pose to migrating birds.

[www.ohioyoungbirders.org/big-sitbig-day-fundraiser](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/big-sitbig-day-fundraiser)

## 2018 Results

### NE CHAPTER

Emerald Necklace Big Day  
Cleveland Metroparks  
Saturday, October 6, 2018  
**Species Total: 74**

### SW CHAPTER

Big Sit  
Great Outdoor Weekend  
At the Cincinnati Nature Center  
Saturday, September 29, 2018

### CENTRAL CHAPTER

Big Day  
Clear Creek & Battelle Darby  
Metroparks  
Saturday, October 20, 2018  
**Species Total: 54**

### NW CHAPTER

Big Sit  
Secor Metropark  
Sunday in the Park with Art  
Sunday, October 28, 2018  
**Species Total: 22**

### HOLMES-WAYNE CO. CHAPTER

Big Sit  
The Yoder Residence  
Saturday, October 13, 2018  
**Species Total: 56**



Members of the OYBC NW Chapter embraced the weather during their Big Sit at Secor Metropark on Sunday, October 28, 2018. They did not let the wet weather dampen their spirits and took advantage of the park's Window on Wildlife to record as many species as possible.

# YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE: MARIANA THOMAS

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

**Mariana Thomas (MT)** – I’ve loved birds for as long as I can remember.

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

**MT** – Kim Kaufman, because she let me release a banded bird.

(Right: September 2012, age 7, at a BSBO banding demonstration releasing a House Wren)



**GW** – Where is your favorite place to bird?

**MT** – My feeders at home. One time, we had an (un) Common Redpoll!

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

**MT** – Getting Roseate Spoonbill as a life bird (in Florida) three years before my mom!

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

**MT** – All of them, basically. I want to be an astronomer.

**GW** – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

**MT** – Reading, annoying my sister EJ, and singing.

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

**MT** – My dad isn’t a birder. Ironically, whenever we all bird together he seems to see the coolest birds—only he doesn’t know they are exciting! Dad: “I see a blue bird.” Mom: “It could be a Bluebird, Blue Jay, or Indigo Bunting. Also, but extremely unlikely, a Blue Grosbeak.” (Looks at bird) “Oh my gosh, it’s a Blue Grosbeak!”

**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?

**MT** – Kids at my school: “What’s birding?” I think we could reach out and work with schools to do field trips, like for banding. Or, things like doing programs in schools through raptor centers.

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

**MT** – Go on field trips with schools.

(Right: Mari dressed as a “pollinator” at Oberlin’s “Big Parade” in May, proudly sporting her Biggest Week gear. Opposite page: Mari and her family on Hog Island, Mari and her mom at the 2015 Ohio Young Birders Conference held at Rocky River Nature Center.)

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

**MT** – I don’t think I have enough fingers to count! Florida, Texas, Oregon, Washington, Maine, Kansas, New Jersey, New Hampshire, etc. My favorite trip was Hog Island last summer—Atlantic Puffins! I’ve also birded in other countries and lived in Germany for a year. I’m leaving for China with my family on December 26—probably everything we see there will be a life bird! Next summer, I’m going to Quebec with my choir, and also to Alaska with my grandparents.

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

**MT** – I think I’d go up to the International Space Station with a really powerful telescope so that I could see (almost) all the birds!

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

**MT** – The Biggest Week in American Birding and a few Ohio Young Birder Conferences. I attended my first Biggest Week when I was 6 years old and my first OYBC conference when I was 8 years old.

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

**MT** – Oberlin Choristers, the Reservoir Ramblers (our family band), and Pentatonix Fan Club. The Reservoir Ramblers play in public a couple times a year—I sing and play piano. Mostly we sing folk music.

**GW** – Where do you go to school?

**MT** – Langston Middle School in Oberlin.

**GW** – What is your dream job?

**MT** – An astronomer.

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

**MT** – Definitely! I would probably get to travel to lots of telescopes, and they are usually in cool places like Hawaii or Antarctica! Talk about life birds...



# ...YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE CONTINUED

GW – Do you volunteer anywhere?

MT – I have been an Eastern Bluebird nestbox monitor for two years for Black River Audubon.

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

MT – At Hog Island last summer we attended Family Camp (I wasn't old enough yet for Teen Camp). I loved seeing Atlantic Puffins! My favorite thing after puffins was just hanging out in the lab in the Queen Mary and learning on my own about all kinds of things.

*(Mari was the recipient of the Thomas Coltman Memorial Scholarship for OYBC members. For more information on young birder scholarship opportunities or how to make a donation, please visit: [www.ohioyoungbirders.org/scholarships1](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/scholarships1) or call BSBO at 419-898-4070.)*



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

MT – OYBC gave me a chance to connect with, learn from, and teach other young birders. It's really special because there aren't any other young birders near me that I know of.

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

MT – Companionship. Like I said, there aren't many (any) birders around my age, other than my sister.

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



## YOUNG BIRDER CAMPS

### Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)

Camp Chiricahua • SE Arizona • 12 days • Ages 14-18  
Session I: July 10-21, 2019; Session II: July 17-28, 2019

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

### Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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

### Audubon

Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens • Hog Island, ME • 6 days • Ages 14-17  
Session I: June 9-14, 2019; Session II: June 16-21, 2019

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

### American Birding Association (ABA)

Camp Colorado • Estes Park, CO • 7 days • Ages 13-18  
Session I: July 27-August 2, 2019; Session II: August 6-12, 2019

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

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

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

Check out the summer youth camps on the OYBC website :

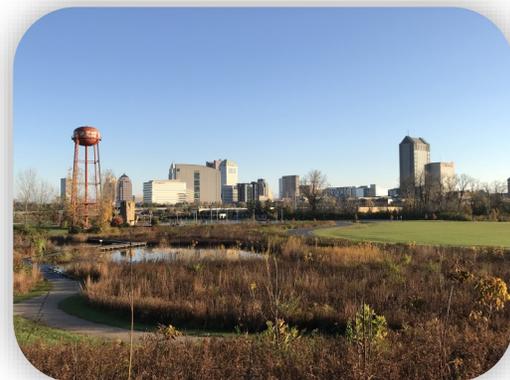
<http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org/youth-birding-camps.html>



Illustration by Nathan Martineau, 2013

# 12TH ANNUAL OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

The Ohio Young Birders Conference comes together like an ecosystem in which all members play a unique role and depend on each other. So many people collaborate to make it possible, from the dedicated adults who work behind the scenes, to the enthusiastic young birders who share their experiences. While last year I was front and center as the Emcee of the conference and loved it, I also enjoyed helping behind the scenes this year. Assisting with the logistical side of the conference showed me the incredible amount of planning and preparation needed for the event.



Months before the conference, OYBC Chapter Advisors, like Darlene Sillick, help presenters perfect and fine-tune their talks and Laura Guerard, BSBO's Education Director and OYBC Statewide Coordinator, labors over vital administrative details. Amazing sponsors, such as Zeiss Sports Optics, Kaufman Field Guides, Time & Optics, Hunt's Photo & Video, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and numerous organizations and individuals donate raffle items and door prizes to support the club and aid with fundraising efforts during the conference. Excitement builds as the summer wears on and the day draws near. (Please see page 11 for a full list of sponsors.)

Finally, the week of the conference arrives! The day before the conference, the young birders arrive (looking considerably scruffier than they will the next day) to help set up, arrange door prizes, and assemble name tags and tote bags. The wonderful Laura Guerard, always calm and reassuring, delegates the seemingly endless list of last-minute projects. Her adorable kids tag along, helping when they can, and explore the interactive displays around the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. The final puzzle pieces are pressed into place.

The day of the conference dawns freezing cold, but the cloudy skies have given way to sunshine. While greeting people at the registration table, I recognize friends from past conferences. As people continue to trickle in, the morning activities begin. Anna Rose leads a field sketching workshop, and a team of students from the OSU Ornithology Club introduces Lights Out Buckeyes. This Columbus-based initiative is part of the statewide Ohio Lights Out program that raises awareness about the dangers that bright nighttime lights pose to migrating birds.



Parents pull out cameras as young birders take the stage to present. Adriana Losey, Katelyn Shelton, and Helena Souffrant share humorous anecdotes, amazing photos and special memories from birding camps across the US. Travis Kaye urges fellow young birders to volunteer, and describes his work at a wildlife rehabilitation center. During the diverse presentations, I consider how the conference gives young birders a platform to thank their families for their sacrifice and investment. Even Oscar Wilhelmy's siblings (who had been exploring the Scioto Audubon Metropark) take a break from rock climbing to watch him present about pelagic birding on the east and west coasts.

This year, I assisted Kenn Kaufman with his much-anticipated Kaufman Photo ID Quiz along with OYBC members Daniel Stutzman and Matthew Rice. Kenn selects the quiz photos in advance, and the Kaufman ID assistants reveal the answers to the young birders who took the quiz on the day of the conference. In preparation, Kenn shared valuable tips about the birds he selected for the quiz, but graciously considered my input as well. What struck me most was Kenn's complete confidence in our ability to present and point out the important features of each bird, despite the fact that he is a world-class birder and field guide author.

After an energizing keynote by OYBC alumni Sarah Winnicki about her journey to a career in field research, the conference draws to a close. Parents take just a few more photos, new friends trade email addresses, and perhaps a young birder leaves inspired to present at the conference next year.



**E**lizabeth Kanzeg, OYBC Central Chapter sponsored by Columbus Audubon

Photos top to bottom: The city of Columbus provides an urban backdrop; brilliant fall colors and blue skies greeted conference participants; the sold-out venue welcomed a room full of young birders, families, and mentors.

## Keynote Presentation by Sarah Winnicki

### “Growing Up Prairie: Insights from the Sparrows”

Sarah was a member of the OYBC from 2007-2012 before she headed to Denison University to study Biology and History. She is currently finishing her Master's degree at Kansas State University and has a keen interest in understanding the growth and development of baby birds.

During her presentation we embarked on a journey through the life of a young sparrow. It was surprising to find just how many similarities there are between growing up on the prairie and growing up as a young birder!



### Master of Ceremonies

Cassidy Ficker



### Kaufman Bird ID Assistants

Elizabeth Kanzeg

Mathew Rice

Daniel Stutzman (not pictured)



### Presenters

“My First Journey West” by Katelyn Shelton

“More Than Birds” Adriana Losey

“Making an Impact as a Teen Birder—How to Get Involved” by Travis Kaye

“Sunny with a Chance of Trogons” by Helena Souffrant

“Pelagics—Birding the Seas” by Oscar Wilhelmy



# 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## Morning Activities



Guided Walk  
with Sarah Winnicki



Sketching Workshop  
with Anna Rose



Lights Out Buckeyes: A Conservation Effort  
with OSU Ornithology Club

Left to right: Gautam Apte, Kevin Perozeni,  
Kandace Glanville, Cassidy Ficker,  
and Tyler Ficker



Kaufman Bird ID Photo Quiz  
with Kenn Kaufman



# OUR SPONSORS HELP BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR BIRDERS!

## Bald Eagle Level



Special guest, Rich Moncrief of Zeiss Sports Optics, shared a heart-warming message with the crowd on behalf of supporting young birders. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors like Zeiss and Time & Optics, a Zeiss Conquest 8x42 binocular was raffled off to raise funds for OYBC scholarships AND each OYBC chapter was given Zeiss TERRA binoculars to use on field trips and outings.

## Red-tailed Hawk Level



## Merlin Level



## American Kestrel Level



Dr. Bernard Master

Kevin Karlson & Dale Rosselet

Pete Dunne

Louise Zemaitis Swallowtail Studios



## Conference Volunteers

Kenn Kaufman ◊ Tyler Ficker ◊ Kevin Perozeni ◊ Kandace Glanville

Aaron Skinner ◊ Gautam Apte ◊ Doug Whitman ◊ Nicole Freshour

Darlene Sillick ◊ Liz McQuaid ◊ Jill Noll ◊ Katie Ware ◊ Jack Burris ◊ Amy Rice

Cathy Burris ◊ Jamie Cunningham ◊ Bev Walborn ◊ Karen Zach ◊ Elizabeth Kanzeg

Zak Beaver ◊ Alex Beaver ◊ Maria Dellapina ◊ Ann Petrushka

# MAKING AN IMPACT AS A TEEN BIRDER—HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Volunteering to help with bird conservation or to protect the environment is one of the most important things that you can do as a teen birder. There are several ways that you can get involved. A good place to start is by getting more involved with your local nature organization such as an Audubon Society. This is how I first got started. Another good place to find out about volunteer opportunities is the internet. You can review the websites of your local Audubon Society or other nature organizations to find out about opportunities. Networking is important too. You can ask other birders about volunteer opportunities and experiences that they have had. You can email nature and bird conservation organizations to see if they have volunteer opportunities. Also, don't forget about your parents – they can be excellent resources too.

One of the main ways I give back to birds is volunteering at the Bird Center of Washtenaw County. Three years ago I attended a presentation by The Bird Center of Washtenaw County sponsored by Detroit Audubon. I met their ambassador, Blue the Blue Jay, and instantly became intrigued by their mission. Our family was friends with a woman who worked both with Detroit Audubon and The Bird Center of Washtenaw County. My mother helped me to secure a volunteer position at the center. The Bird Center of Washtenaw County is located in Ann Arbor, MI, where I work with injured and orphaned birds. At the Bird Center I mainly feed fledgling birds, clean up bird cages, keep the birds cool by spritzing water on them, cutting up fruit, making food for the baby birds, and helping clean up the center by doing dishes and taking out the trash. An added bonus is the opportunity to release birds back into the wild. I got to release a Chimney Swift, which was very cool. I released the Swift next to a chimney so it could roost for the night.

I find volunteering at The Bird Center of Washtenaw County extremely rewarding. Before I started volunteering there I had been an avid birder for years. Through my volunteer work I have built up more awareness about bird conservation. I would have never known about this volunteer opportunity without networking. Networking with fellow birders led me to join Detroit Audubon and OYBC. Through my experience in these organizations, I learned about the volunteer opportunities at The Bird Center of Washtenaw County. With the internet and social media, networking today is easier than ever. I highly recommend networking and taking advantage of volunteer opportunities in birding.

**T**ravis Kaye, OYBC NW Chapter



Alex Burke participates in the early morning walk at the 12th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference. Grange Insurance Audubon Center at Scioto Audubon Metropark

## Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

On Saturday, September 29, 2018, the OYBC Holmes-Wayne County, Northeast, and Northwest Chapters had a field trip to Winous Point Marsh Conservancy. Winous Point is owned by the oldest duck-hunting club in the United States. The club was started in 1856, and has over 3,000 acres of marsh, open water, and woods.

Once everyone had arrived, we watched Mark Shieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Research Director, band songbirds. He banded about 15 to 20 birds, including Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow, and warblers, including Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, Nashville, Tennessee, Myrtle, and Blackpoll. He talked a lot about the birds that he banded and explained why banding is important to scientists and conservation. After the birds were banded, we had the chance to hold them in our hands and release them. While the banding was being done, we saw a number of migrants in the surrounding trees, including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and a flock of Northern Shovelers flying over.

After the banding, John Simpson, Executive Director of Winous Point Marsh Conservancy, gave us a very interesting tour of the Winous Point Clubhouse and facilities. He showed us their complete collection of framed Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and prints. Before we left, we had a picnic lunch on the lawn overlooking Sandusky Bay. We saw lots of Bonaparte's Gulls, several Bald Eagles, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk while we were eating lunch.

**A**ndrew Hershberger, OYBC Holmes-Wayne County Chapter

## Birding at Blendon Woods and Pickerington Metro Parks

Our birding adventure started at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of September 22, at Blendon Woods Metro Park. There we walked the trail to Thoreau Lake seeing many varieties of birds along the way. Some of the cool birds which we saw there included Chimney Swifts, Magnolia Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhees, Ovenbird, and many Snowy and Great Egrets. After we finished birding there we ate lunch at the visitors' center. From Thoreau Lake we drove over to Ellis Pond at Pickerington Metro Park to see if we could get a look at the rare Roseate Spoonbill. Roseate Spoonbills live in the tropics including Florida, so seeing one here in Ohio is quite rare. We were lucky and got the chance to see a Roseate Spoonbill. From there we were going to see if a pair of owls were still living in the area, but sadly we were informed that they had left earlier in the summer. After that we got a group picture and the birding trip was over. In total we saw 44 different species of birds. Here's the bird list: Blue Jay, American Goldfinch, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Robin, Downy Woodpecker, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Bluebird, Hairy Woodpecker, Carolina Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chimney Swift, American Crow, Turkey Vulture, Magnolia Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Wood Duck, Mallard, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Canada Goose, Pied-billed Grebe, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Ovenbird, Tufted Titmouse, Song Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Roseate Spoonbill, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Common Yellowthroat, Tree Swallow, Osprey, Sandhill Cranes, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, Blackpoll Warbler, and some kind of gull. Also, we had 6 OYBC members, 2 OYBC Advisors, and 1 leader.



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The day did not end for me as my dad took us for a short drive over to Fostoria to get a glimpse at some rare trains. While there we got to see the ultra-rare EMD SD40-2 #8039 for CSX Railroad along with a rare EMD SD70M-2 for Norfolk Southern. The different locomotives from various railroads we got to see included CSX, Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific, and Canadian Pacific. That was our birding and side train-watching trip! (Above: All smiles at Pickerington Pond after seeing the Roseate Spoonbill.)

**D**ani Price & **C**hristi Price, OYBC Central and SW Chapters

# ripples in a pond: the impact of migratory duck banding

The panic-stricken juvenile Wood Duck plunged beneath the surface of the murky water. It frantically sought escape from the predator, but was unable to fly in the enclosed space. Its lungs were not designed for diving, and it was momentarily forced to venture to the surface for a shallow breath.

“There, there!” I called to the Ohio DNR employee.

“Shoot!” he muttered as the duck disappeared again.

I tracked the frightened bird solely by the bubbles zigzagging from one side of the chicken-wire trap to the other, getting as close as I dared without flooding over the top of my new chest waders. As my partner charged around the enclosure in hot pursuit of the little duck, the waves created by his efforts violently rocked a small floating platform, spilling some of its corn bait into the depths. Finally, he lunged into one corner of the enclosure, sweeping his net from the muddy bottom of the pond to the water’s surface. When the tool next cleared the water, it contained one very indignant Wood Duck, rendered immobile by the mesh around its wings. Carefully slipping through the trap’s funnel-neck entrance, the conservation worker gently pried the fowl out of his net and flung it into the air. Instead of winging away across the pond, the duck performed a graceful arc back down to the water only a few feet away, where, zeeting madly, it hurried into the cover of the thick reeds. I shot a glance at the deceptively empty-looking trap. One down, three to go...

Travis Kruse, the supervisor for Lake La-Su-An Wildlife Area (my “local patch”, located only seven miles from home), had invited me to tag along with his DNR team for the day to observe duck banding. With its sprawling, interconnected lake system scattered over 2,430 acres of forest and grassland, La-Su-An is the perfect place to tally migratory waterfowl. Our current objective was to band as many Mallards as possible, notating the sex and age of each bird. The field data we collected would be used by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service together with various state wildlife agencies to help establish hunting limits. Though there is admittedly a lot researchers have yet to discover about population dynamics, they can create fairly accurate population models by calculating how many ducklings will be hatched each year and also predicting distribution along the four major migration routes known as Flyways. As a birder, the entire concept of hunting is rather appalling to me, especially when it comes to beautiful, shy species like Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. I would much rather “shoot” animals using a camera! However, I realize how important hunters truly are to habitat conservation. 100% of the revenue generated by the purchase of state hunting and fishing licenses and permits goes directly to support state wildlife agencies, paving the way for future preservation of wildlife. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website, the sale of Federal Duck Stamps alone has generated over \$800 million since 1934, helping them purchase, maintain, and lease over 6.5 million acres of land nationwide.

Hunters also help to counteract overpopulation by culling prolific species such as Mallards. Like House Sparrows, the Mallard invasion is strengthened by the fact that they can coexist with humans in areas that, before development, would have supported more diverse species. Mallards are known for extensively hybridizing with other duck species worldwide, threatening some with extinction through loss of genetic distinctiveness. These include the Hawaiian Duck, New Zealand Grey Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Meller’s Duck, Yellow-billed Duck, Mexican Duck, Spot-billed Duck, Mottled Duck, and American Black Duck. A recent study by the Louisiana State University and Agricultural Center revealed that around 5 to 8 percent of Mallards and Mottled Ducks in Gulf Coast states are in fact hybrids. In Florida, the hybridization rate is high enough to be concerning at 7 to 12 percent.

(Continued on Page 15)

This article was written in 2017 for the 2018 ABA Young Birder of the Year Contest. Kaylee McCaskey received a silver medal for her work!

*Congratulations Kaylee!*



Kaylee conducting field research.

“How did the Hairy Woodpecker get its name?” - Katelyn Shelton

## Hairy Woodpecker

Scientific Name: *Picoides villosus*

Habitat: Mature deciduous and coniferous forests

The Hairy Woodpecker gets its name from the long, thread-like white feathers that run down the middle of its black back. This species looks very much like the Downy Woodpecker, but has a heftier bill. It's also larger, measuring 9 to 10 inches in length — about the same size as Brazil's rare Kaempfer's Woodpecker.

Ornithologist Arthur Cleveland Bent noted in his *Life Histories of North American Birds* (published 1919-1968), "The Hairy Woodpecker is a much shier, more retiring bird than the confiding little downy; it is also more active and noisier; it usually will not allow such close approach but will dodge around the trunk of a tree or fly away, if an intruder comes too near, bounding through the air in a series of graceful dips and rebounds."



### Reference

American Bird Conservancy

Hairy Woodpecker-Large Tree Lover, BIRD OF THE WEEK: February 2, 2018, American Bird Conservancy, accessed 2 February 2 2019, <https://abcbirds.org/bird/hairy-woodpecker/>

Photo by Katelyn Shelton

### Do you have a question about birds or nature study?

Please send an email to Laura Guerard, OYBC Statewide Coordinator, [LauraGuerard@bsbo.org](mailto:LauraGuerard@bsbo.org) or mail a letter of interest to BSBO, Attn: Laura Guerard, 13551 W. St. Rt. 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

(Ripples in a Pond Continued...)

To be completely honest, the duck banding excursion didn't turn out to be the grand adventure I had originally imagined — but it didn't matter. I enjoyed learning more about the purposes of banding, and how the many state and government agencies work together to ensure the future of native wildlife. I also valued my chance to have a small glimpse into the career of a wildlife officer. I, too, hope to have an occupation which allows me to help protect nature. I currently plan on becoming an environmental educator, using my love of teaching to push back against one of the things most deadly to wildlife — ignorance.

**K**aylee McCaskey, OYBC NW Chapter

### Bibliography

Klein, Joanna. "What Swims Like a Duck and Quacks Like a Duck Could Be a Hybrid of Two Duck Species." *The New York Times*, 11 Sept. 2017, [www.nytimes.com/2017/09/11/science/ducks-mallard-mottled-hybrid.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/11/science/ducks-mallard-mottled-hybrid.html) accessed 25 Sept. 2017

Kross, Jennifer. "Waterfowl Hybrids." *Ducks Unlimited*, [www.ducks.org/Conservation/Waterfowl-Research-Science/Waterfowl-Hybrids](http://www.ducks.org/Conservation/Waterfowl-Research-Science/Waterfowl-Hybrids) accessed 25 Sept. 2017

"Mallard." *Wikipedia*, [en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallard](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallard) accessed 7 Sept. 2017

## Green Lawn Cemetery

Our OYBC Central Chapter hike on Saturday, November 10, can be summed up in one word: BRRRRR! This was our November outing, and we met at Green Lawn Cemetery for a bird hike and held our annual planning session. At 8:00 a.m. when the hike started it was 20°, but with the wind chill it was a frigid 0°. Despite the cold weather, it was a good turnout of young birders, parents, and advisors.

We started off the hike at the pit, where Warren Grody filled the feeders and the birds immediately started eating the seeds. There were a couple of Pine Siskins and Dark-eyed Juncos on the feeders. Next to the pond there was a nice Cooper's Hawk sighting. Further down from the pond was an enormous gingko tree raining yellow leaves. It was really beautiful. We headed to the bridge to take our group picture (below), and saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and multiple Golden-crowned Kinglets!

We then went to the mausoleum to have our annual planning meeting. The YAB's (Youth Advisory Board) shared their ideas of what we should do in 2019. There were lots of good ideas of field trips and conservation projects. Our next outing will be to the Wilds on January 18, 2019. Hope the weather is a bit warmer!

**M**att Rice, OYBC Central Chapter



Official trip list by Adriana Losey :

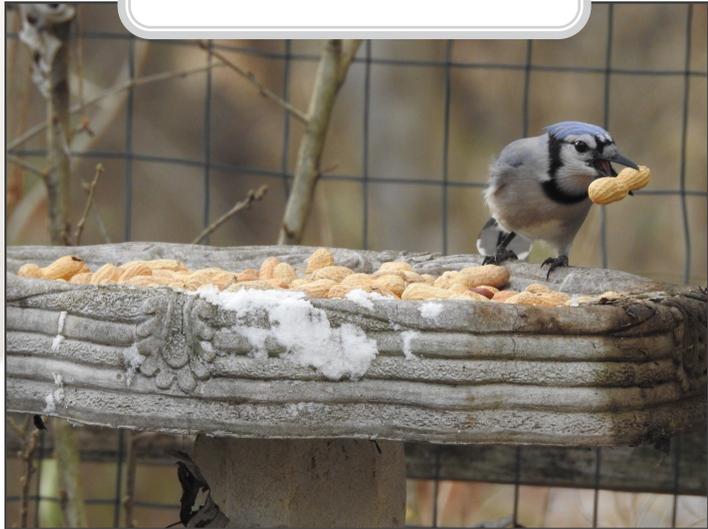
- 11 Mallard
- 6 Mourning Dove
- 1 Ring-billed Gull
- 1 Cooper's Hawk
- 3 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- 3 Red-bellied Woodpecker
- 1 Hairy Woodpecker
- 1 Downy Woodpecker
- 5 Blue Jay
- 3 Carolina Chickadee
- 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 4 White-breasted Nuthatch
- 2 Golden-crowned Kinglet
- 4 American Robin
- 8 European Starling
- 6 House Finch
- 2 Pine Siskin
- 8 American Goldfinch
- 3 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)
- 18 Red-winged Blackbird
- 1 American Crow
- 7 Northern Cardinal

Katelyn Shelton photographed this Black-legged Kittiwake on November 18, 2018, at Hoover Dam right behind the physical dam. "I was expecting it to be flying but to my surprise, it was taking a rest on the dock amidst other gulls!" - KS

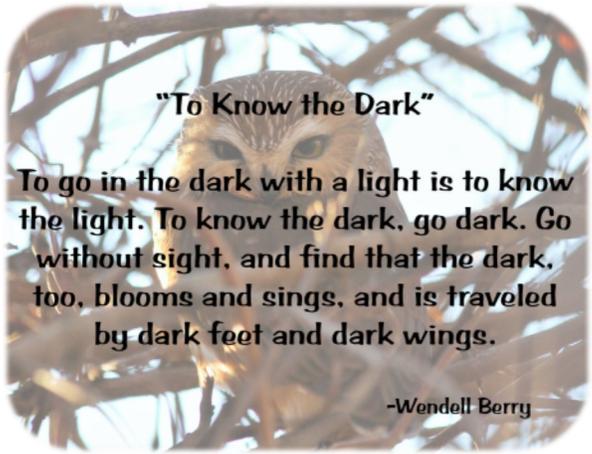




Blue Jay photo and illustration  
by Katelyn Shelton



Dark-eyed Junco  
by Katelyn Shelton



**Avian Trivia**

*Jaguars are said to be able to imitate the call of which bird?*

*Do spoonbills have large, functional tongues?*

*What is a group of crows called?*

*Do the feet of a flying Black-crowned Night-Heron extend beyond its tail?*

*(Answers at the bottom of page 17. Source: 10,001 Titillating Tidbits of Avian Trivia by Frank S. Todd)*

Trivia Answers: The Great Tinamou. The Indians of the first tribes of Brazil and Columbia believe that the jaguar imitates the call of the tinamou, in order to lure it into range for a kill. No, they have rudimentary tongues. A murder of crows. Yes, but just barely, whereas the legs of a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron extend well beyond its tail.

# 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](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org). To register for any of these events, or for more information, please contact BSBO at 419-898-4070.*



## FEBRUARY

### WINTERING OWLS & HAWKS BSBO & OYBC STATEWIDE FIELD TRIP

DATE: Saturday, February 9, 2019

TIME: 1:00 PM - DUSK

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area (KPWA)

KPWA is well known for wintering raptors and this will be our focus.

But of course, we'll also look for any other birds that cross our path.

LOCATION: Meet at KPWA Headquarters

19100 County Highway 115

Harpster, OH 43323

For questions or to reserve your spot, email [staff@bsbo.org](mailto:staff@bsbo.org) or call 419-898-4070. When you register, please indicate that you are an OYBC member.

## MARCH

### OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY CONFERENCE

DATE: Saturday, March 9, 2019

TIME: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

For more information please visit: [www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org/conference/](http://www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org/conference/) Note: This is not an OYBC field trip, but families can register to attend. Speakers include OYBC members Anna Rose and Katelyn Shelton.

### SHREVE MIGRATION SENSATION

DATE: Saturday, March 30, 2019

TIME: Doors open at 8:00 AM

For more information please visit: [www.shreveohio.com/migration-sensation](http://www.shreveohio.com/migration-sensation) Note: This is not an OYBC field trip. Families can register and you can ask for the special OYBC member rate for admission.

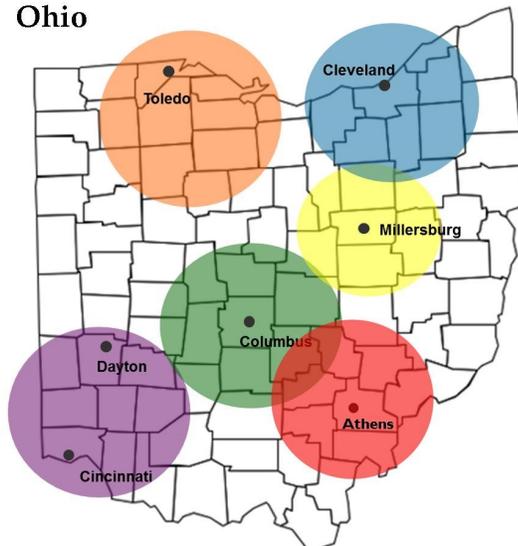


Youth participants at the 2018 conference strike a birder pose.

**13th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference**  
**Saturday, November 9, 2019**  
**Toledo, OH**



## Ohio



### OYBC Regional Chapter Key:

-  NW Chapter
-  SW Chapter
-  NE Chapter
-  Central Chapter
-  Holmes-Wayne County Chapter
-  SE Chapter

# THE OYBC SHOUT-OUT PAGE

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

as of January 15, 2019

### STUDENT MEMBERS

Rachel Blumin  
Anabelle Coniglio  
Aravah Getzler  
Rachel Iven  
Eric Iven  
Heidi Kleinman  
Marcus Miller  
Lilly Morgan  
Emma Palmbo  
Andrea Reed  
Marty Stutzman  
Gabriel Troyer  
Linden Wagner

### ADULT SUPPORTERS

Julie Iven  
Jill Noll



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

## Thank You to all of our OYBC SPONSORS!

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Toledo Naturalists' Association  
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)  
Zeiss Sports Optics

*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



Outside Looking In: Kenn Kaufman, Anna Rose, and Darlene Sillick converse in the classroom during the sketching workshop at the 12th annual conference.

## Golden-Wings Publication Schedule 2019-2020

Spring 2019	Submission Due Date: March 15, 2019
Summer/Fall 2019	Submission Due Date: August 1, 2019
Winter 2020	Submission Due Date: November 15, 2019

Please email or mail 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"



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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