



OYBC Young Birder Profile September 2020

Kimberly Williams
OYBC NE Chapter Member



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

Kimberly Williams (KW) – Someone that got me interested in birds is Mr. Banish. He was my science teacher and had asked me if I wanted to join the bird club at school and he made us write a short paragraph on why he should accept us in. I got in and I started birding in 2018.

(Richard "Buster" Banish is a Co-Advisor for the OYBC NE Chapter and founder of the East Clark Bird Nerd Club. Since joining the club, Kimberly has seen and identified about 150 species.)

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

KW – Birding mentor(s) that have helped me a lot are Liz McQuaid, Mr. Matt, and all the Ohio Young Birders Club members that I have gone birding with.

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

KW – My favorite bird is a Northern Parula warbler. The Northern Parula is my favorite because I like the colors and they kind of remind me of a human because of their traits when it comes to certain things.

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

KW – My favorite place to bird is Sandy Ridge Reservation because you can see so many birds in one place. It's diverse.

(Details on Sandy Ridge Reservation location and species by season courtesy of Ohio Ornithological Society [https://ohiobirds.org/birding-at-sandy-ridge-reservation/.](https://ohiobirds.org/birding-at-sandy-ridge-reservation/))

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

KW – I really want to see a Cinnamon Teal. I want to see a Cinnamon Teal because I think they are uniquely colored, it is a rare species of duck in Ohio, and I can find it at a bird preserve close to me. I really want to see one.

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

KW – My greatest accomplishment in birding so far is seeing how far I have come in birding. I honestly thought I would not like birding but, I really like it. Birding has given me so many opportunities.

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

KW – I am interested in Social Studies. I really like learning about history because it makes me think about things like "what would life be without this" or "what if this

person did something differently.” It makes me think about how if something did not happen or change how would life be.

GW – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

KW – Some hobbies of mine are practicing how to braid, traveling, and I am involved in some Black Lives Matter movements. But with the pandemic, some of my hobbies have been put on hold.

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

KW – Two of my cousins are Bird Nerds and are in the Ohio Young Birders Club. Most of my family are not birders so the way I handle the situation is I ask them to go walking with me to a bird trail and I show them the fun in birding and they go back to the trails or I tell them different places they can go.

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?

KW – Most people my age think birding is boring because you're outside most of the time and it takes patience, and most people do not have that, so they do not show much interest. A way we can change that is showing them pictures of different birds and telling them you can possibly see it if you give birding a try and taking them to different reserves.

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

KW – A way we can get young people interested in nature is combining things they like. Most young people are obsessed with their phone, but you can tell them about different apps that involve birding and they can track how many birds they see and see how much they improve as a birder over time.

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

KW – The internet can help foster a community of young birders. I feel that way because they can look up birds and see photos and videos as well.

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

KW – If I could go any place in the world to see a bird I would go to Kenya, Africa and I would see a Lilac-Breasted Roller.

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

KW – I have attended: Chagrin Bird Quest, OYBC fundraisers, the Biggest Week in American Birding, and many more. I have been to so many events.



GW – Where do you go to school?

KW – I currently attend East Clark Elementary School.

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

KW – I do plan to attend college. I would like to attend Morgan State University or Princeton University.

GW – What is your dream job?

KW – My dream job is to be an Archaeologist.

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

KW – My favorite book is *Winnie-The-Pooh* by A.A Milne. *Winnie-The-Pooh* is my favorite book because Pooh goes on so many adventures with his friends and it is fun to read.

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

KW – My favorite movie is *Princess and The Frog*. That is my favorite movie because Tiana came from nothing and she just worked so hard just to accomplish her father's dreams.

GW – What's your favorite place to eat?

KW – My favorite place to eat is Wendy's.

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

KW – I have a Yorkie Terrier named Bailey.

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

KW – I take classes and I help the rookies in the Bird Nerds.

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

KW – Joining the OYBC has really changed my perspective of birding. It has given me so many opportunities and showed me many places I have never heard of.

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

KW – OYBC is a great organization I feel like they offer so much there is nothing to want or need.