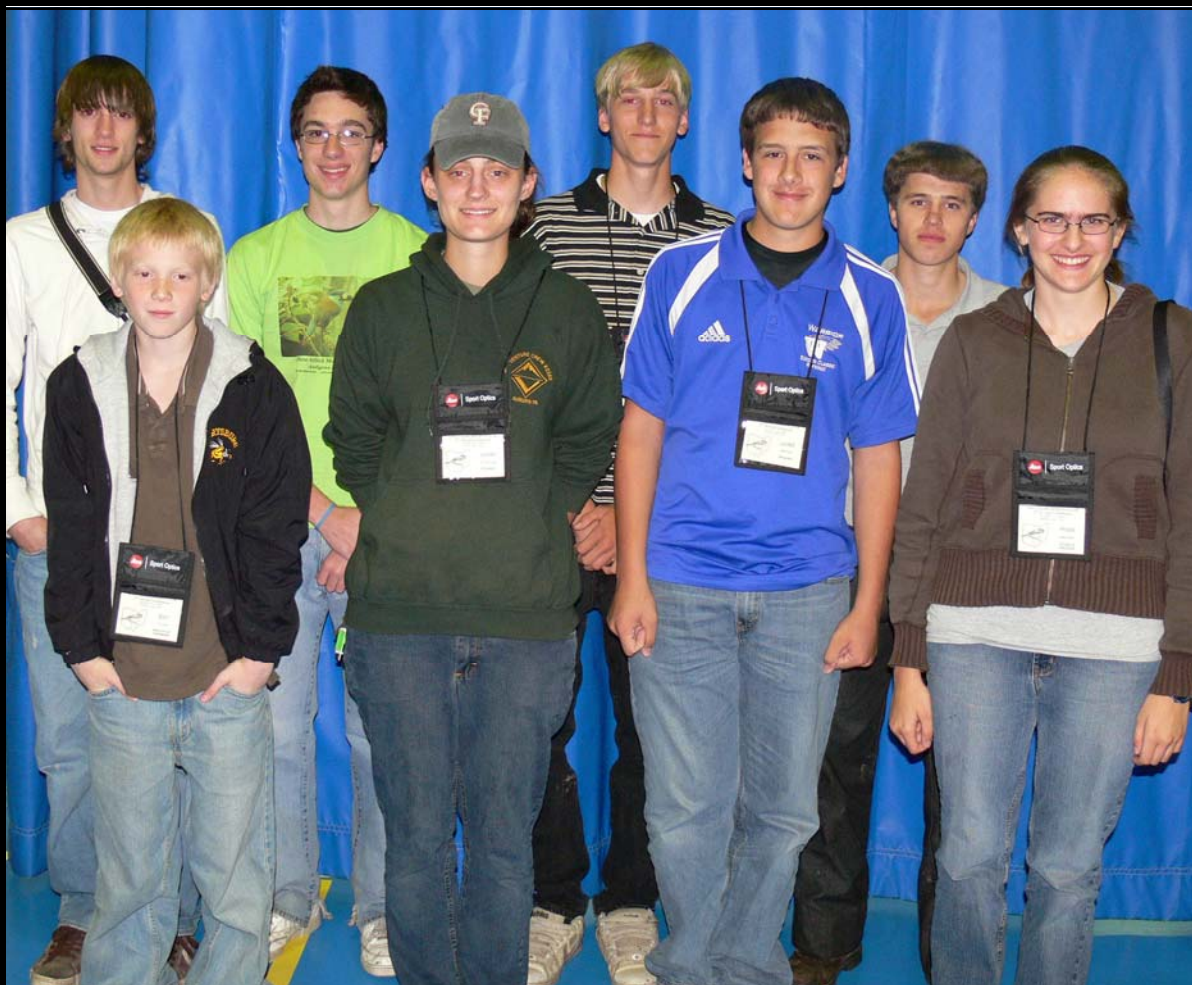




Ohio Young Birders Club

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4
WINTER 2008 - 2009



2nd Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference, October 4 & 5, 2008 Speaker Lineup:
Back Row: Ethan Kistler, Brad Wilkinson, Bret McCarty, Jacob Bowman
Front Row: Ben Thornton, Auriel Van Der Laar, Jared Merriman, and Keynote: Hope Batcheller

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Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

Creating a community for young
birders throughout Ohio
and beyond!

Coordinators

Delores Cole
Kenn Kaufman
Kim Kaufman
John Sawvel

Youth Advisory Panel

Ethan Kistler
Bret McCarty
Lukas Padegimas
Ben Thornton
Brad Wilkinson
Sarah Winnecki
Brad Wilkinson

The OYBC is sponsored by

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

BSBO promotes sound
stewardship of avian resources in
the western basin of Lake Erie
through research and education.

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

13551 West St. Rt. 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

We are located at the entrance to
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

419 898-4070 (voice)
419 898-1363 (fax)

Email: info@ohioyoungbirders.org

Visit us at
www.ohioyoungbirders.org
www.bsbobird.org
www.bsbobird.org/birding

On the 2nd Annual OYBC Conference by Kenn Kaufman ~

The Second Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference was a smashing success! Held on October 4 and 5, 2008, and headquartered at the Chestnut Ridge Elementary School in Walnut Creek, Ohio, the conference attracted more than 120 people.

Saturday morning started off with a field trip to Funk Bottoms, one of the prime birding spots in that area of Ohio. Back at the school, after a tasty traditional Amish lunch, we enjoyed a great series of presentations by OYBC members:

Chasing Beeps: Radio Telemetry in Rail Research, by Auriel Van Der Laar.

Winter Birds on the North Coast, by Bret McCarty.

Birds for Bucks: Ecotourism and the Traveling Birder, by Jared Merriman.

Birding Killbuck Marsh: A Birder and his Bicycle, by Jacob Bowman.

How Ecotourism is Protecting the Tropics, by Brad Wilkinson and Ethan Kistler.



Our Keynote Speaker, Hope Batcheller from Petersburg, New York, presented a talk on Fledglings: Researching the Unknown. She described her research project of recording the voices and noting the plumage of recently fledged young birds. This subject has received little attention in the past, but it could be very important for atlassing or other projects that involve studies of nesting birds.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Ben Thornton, introduced all the speakers and kept the schedule flowing. And Lukas Padegimas provided memorable insights on bird identification in the presentation of answers to the Photo Quiz.

During the conference, the spotlight was entirely on young birders. However, we spotted several notable adults in the audience, from Sean Logan, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, to Bill Thompson III, editor of Bird Watcher's Digest. Leica Sport Optics, the lead sponsor of the event, sent their birding representative, Jeff Bouton, all the way from Florida to take part in the conference. On Sunday, some of us went back out to Funk Bottoms with Jeff for a session on digiscoping. And the American Birding Association sent their new Education Manager, Steve Carbol, out from Colorado. See Steve's report on page 6.

What Folks had to say about the conference ~

Hope Batcheller -

Conference Keynote Speaker from Upstate New York

From seeing Sandhill Cranes (a treat for an eastern New Yorker), to hearing about others' birding experiences, to the lame (but hilarious) puns, the OYBC conference was awesome. I enjoyed meeting fellow bird-obsessives, young and not-so-young, and look forward to future OYBC events.

Jim McCormac -

Excerpts from Jim McCormac's Ohio Birds & Biodiversity Blog Post on Oct 5, 2008

[Oct 4, 2008] marked the second annual Ohio Young Birders Club conference, and it was an event to be proud of. Hats off to Kim Kaufman and all of her able volunteers at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory for not only making this conference possible, but for spearheading the whole young birders agenda. It is a growing movement here in Ohio, and their example is migrating far beyond the state's boundaries. About 110 attendees made the scene, most from Ohio, but I remember people from Indiana, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Connecticut.

Jim McCarty -

Excerpts from Jim McCarty's Aerial View Column & Neo Birding Blog for the Cleveland Plain Dealer posted on Oct 6, 2008

I have seen the future of birding in Ohio, and it looks extremely promising. Let me assure you, had you been among the 120 or so people who attended, you would have been as proud and optimistic as I am. It was strictly a youth-driven event as the best and the brightest of our progenies dazzled the crowd with skillful Power Point presentations of ornithological wonder.

Kevin Loughlin -

Excerpts from a Web post by Kevin Loughlin of Wildside Nature Tours, www.wildsidetoursinc.com

Kenn Kaufman posted an announcement on BIRDCHAT about the 2nd Annual Conference of the Ohio Young Birders Club, and since I have been hoping to get a youth birding club started in my area, I decided to attend the conference--and I have to say it was well worth the 16 hour r/t drive. I was very fortunate to sit with Ben Thornton and his mom Tina, Hope Batcheller, and Jim McCormac at dinner. Ben and Hope's enthusiasm for birds and nature was wonderful to see. Just as impressive was the support all of these kids had from their parents and other adult birders. Kim has been asked by many to help with starting a program like this in other states, and rightly so, the Ohio Young Birders Club is a great model for the young birding community!

GOLDEN-WINGS

Many thanks to all those who put time into this newsletter. Special thanks to Kenn Kaufman, Lukas Padegimas, Philip Chaon, Jared Merriman, Bret McCarty, Jason YoderMiller, and Delores Cole.

The **GOLDEN-WINGS** Editor is happy to receive for newsletter consideration your:

Trip Reports

Species Profiles

Articles

Sketches

and Photos

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is January 15, 2009

Email:

info@ohioyoungbirders.org

Mail:

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

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Cover Photo - Speaker Lineup from the 2nd Annual OYBC Conference by Jim McCormac.

Species Profile: Magnolia Warbler By Ben Thornton ~



Magnolia Warbler by Carl Edwards

The Magnolia Warbler is very common in Ohio during spring migration. At the many banding stations it is the most common warbler of them all. This is the first warbler I ever saw, probably because of its numbers. Even so, when I saw it, I fell in love with it. Not everyone thinks much of them because of how easy they are to find, but I think they are the prettiest of all the warblers that I have seen. Although it's true I've never been to places like Ecuador and Texas and seen all the warblers, I think there's no better place to see warblers than the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

The Magnolia Warbler is about 4 to 5 inches long and weighs about 6 to 15 grams, depending on when you see it during its migration. The male Magnolia Warbler has two different songs. One is for courtship and the other is for defense against other males.

The male in spring has a yellow chest with black streaks coming off of a

black necklace. It is mostly gray and black on the back and wings, but the wing has white wing bars. It has a gray crown with a white eyebrow.

In fall, it has many of the same features but all of them seem to be duller and less colorful. For example, the black necklace becomes grayer and split up instead of a solid line. Its wing bars also tend

to be less prominent and bold.

The Magnolia Warbler is probably the easiest warbler to identify by seeing only the underside of the tail. The Magnolia Warbler keeps its tail closed most of the time and not fanned like an American Redstart. When closed, the underside of the Magnolia Warbler tail shows a wide black band at the end of the tail and wide white band near the coverts. The tail looks this way regardless of age, sex, or season.



Magnolia Warbler by Carl Edwards

This bird breeds in the boreal forest of Canada and all the way down to West Virginia, but its range tends to wrap around Ohio if you look at it on a range map. In winter it migrates down to southern Mexico and the Caribbean. It migrates through most of the eastern United States.

The Magnolia feeds on insects like most warblers. It lays a mostly white egg with variable spots or speckles. In a usual hatch, there are about four offspring. Its nest consists of mostly loose grass, and it's placed on a horizontal tree branch, close to the trunk and about 10 feet from the ground. It's one of the few species of warblers that has a steadily increasing population.

Its song is a weak whistled "weta weta WETA." If that helps at all, I admire you because it sounds nothing like that. My recommendation is to go to a website and listen to it for yourself if you want to recognize the call.

The Magnolia Warbler was named by Alexander Wilson, who found one in a magnolia tree. He named it Black-and-yellow Warbler for an English name and Magnolia as a Latin name. But over time, the Latin name became more popular. And now Magnolia is the English name, and the Latin is *Dendroica magnolia*.

In all, I think the Magnolia Warbler is overlooked because of how common it is, and if you spend some time observing it, you'll see how pretty it really is.

Young Birders Profile...Spotlight on Emily Draeger, age 13 ~

GW - What year did you start birding?

ED - 2008.

GW - What or who got you interested in birds?

ED - My family went to Magee Marsh.

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

ED - Sarah Winnicki the Ohio Young Birders Club.

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

ED - The Gray Catbird. It involves my favorite animal.

GW - Where is your favorite place to bird?

ED - I don't really have a preference.

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

ED - I just like to see the different types of birds. I don't have a rare species of bird that I would like to see specifically.

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

ED - I like animals and waterfalls.

GW - Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

ED - I like to read and play volleyball. I like movies and music. I like to volunteer.

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

ED - I don't really have any family or friends into birding.

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?

ED - Not many people my age like to go birding. Now that they have cell phones and the computer, they don't want to get outside in their community for birding.

GW - How could we get more young people interested in Nature?

ED - I really don't have an answer to that.

GW - Do you think the Internet can help foster a community of young birders, and if so, how?

ED - Yes, I think that the Internet could help because many teens/kids go online at least once a day. I know that I sometimes am bored and I type in random words and see what I can come up with. Maybe some teen/kid will type in birds or birding clubs and find the websites on birding and become hooked!

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

ED - I would go to Australia and see an ostrich.

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

ED - I am involved in Girls in Science, Peer Tutoring, Carillon Historical Park Volunteer, and Volleyball.

GW - Where do you go to school?

ED - St. Albert the Great Catholic School.

GW - Do you plan to go to college, and if so, have you thought of where?

ED - I have a few colleges that I would like to go to.

GW - What is your dream job?

ED - My dream job is becoming a teacher of the first or second grade. I have thought of being a park ranger. That is one of my possibilities.

GW - What kind of music do you like?

ED - I like all types of music. My favorite is soft rock.

GW - Do you have a favorite book, and if so, what is it?

ED - I am a mystery lover and I love the Nancy Drew books!

GW - Do you have a favorite movie, and if so, what is it and why?

ED - My favorite movie is Cinderella. I like all Disney movies but Cinderella is my favorite!!

GW - What's your favorite place to eat or favorite type of food?

ED - My favorite food is tuna fish. I love tuna fish!

GW - What are your favorite Web sites?

ED - bizkids.com and csitheexperience.org and I also like many others but I don't have enough room to list them all!

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

ED - I do not have any pets. I have had fish, but nothing more than that.

GW - Do you volunteer anywhere?

ED - I volunteer at Carillon Historical Park and at my school.

GW - Are you involved with any birding or Nature projects?

ED - No I am not involved with any birding or Nature projects other than OYBC.

2008 OYBC Conference Report by Steve Carbol ~

Steve Carbol is the Education Manager for the American Birding Association



After years of working with kids and birders, including kids who happen to be birders, rarely have I encountered those of the caliber I met during the Ohio Young Birder's Conference. Having read the presentation lineup, I was excited for some serious, cerebral ornithological discussions; rail telemetry and monitoring, nestling sound recording and analysis and international ecotourism just to name a few. Speaker after speaker took the podium and, given the heady topics, I was surprised that they were all of the generation more likely to use Oxy than Ben-Gay. None were out of their teens. I was impressed with the eloquence, maturity and passion with which the kids spoke and dazzled by the fascinating, important and cutting-edge research they were conducting. The subject matter was intellectual enough to hold pace with any adult ornithologist's summit, but the stodgy old fuddy-duddies were replaced with fresh-faced, enthusiastic kids. It was fun and refreshing.

Ever eager to be outside, I was excited to spend some time in the field with the young birders. During our trip to Funk Bottoms we encountered some nice birds and I came away with a total of 83 spe-

cies. Personal highlights included Black Vulture, Sora, Sandhill Crane, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Marsh Wren, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Tennessee Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. We also encountered a slew of Long-tailed Salamanders and a Hairy-tailed Mole. Some of the birds on my trip list like Chimney Swift and Wood Thrush are, admittedly, long-time personal favorites. Others like the Sora and Marsh Wren were special because of the great looks we got despite their skulking elusive nature. Some birds, such as the cranes and Swamp Sparrows, stood out because of their sheer numbers. Growing up in Ohio, I well recall that the appearance of even a few cranes was enough to send birders scrambling. During the OYBC, we witnessed well over 100 cranes together and as for the Swamp Sparrows, I have rarely before seen so many in one place at once.

Perhaps the most memorable bird of the trip, for me anyway, was a Barn Owl. I do not know who originally spotted the bird, but some intrepid eagle-eyed birder noticed the owl laying face down in the marsh. It had apparently been hunting frogs out over the water, became entangled in the nonnative Eurasian Water Milfoil, an invasive aquatic weed, blanketing the surface and ultimately met a watery demise. We walked past the bird into the fields to search more animated

quarry, but I couldn't get the owl out of my thoughts. I have a good deal of experience handling native and exotic birds including penguins, toucans, parrots, eagles and, yes, Barn Owls, and have learned so much from working so closely with such amazing birds. Knowing that most of the kids at the event probably didn't have this kind of hands-on experience, at the end of the outing I hurried to get back to the parking lot.

Wading into the odiferous marsh up to my hips to retrieve the owl, I encountered the largest Northern Water Snake I've ever seen, flushed up a Sora and wrecked my boots and jeans in the process. But wading ashore with the owl, it was all worth it to see the looks of amazement on the kids' (and adults') faces as we explored and discussed the owl's impressive anatomy and adaptations. I think many of the attendees enjoyed and learned from the encounter and the bird ended up going to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to become the facility's newest skeleton specimen.

As I said, I grew up in Ohio, and wish that a fantastic, supportive organization like the Ohio Young Birder's Club existed when I was a kid. I enjoyed being a part of the conference, met some fun wonderful young birders, saw some great birds, and learned that if one goes wading into Funk Bottoms, it is indeed a very aptly named place.

Young Birders Profile...Spotlight on Emily Draeger, age 13 (cont'd) ~

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

ED - No I do not keep a life list. Maybe I should start one!

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

ED - Becoming a member of the OYBC has changed me a lot. I really enjoy the trips that we go on, I have met so many extraordinary people my age who are also interested in birding, and it's made my life more complete. I have to thank my parents for finding out about OYBC!

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

ED - I think that the OYBC offers enough. I haven't been to many of the trips or meetings, so I don't really know what the birders could use or not use.

Phil Chaon's Ecuador Update, November 3, 2008 ~

Many of you know this already, but for those who don't, Phil is in Ecuador working as a birding guide at a lodge called the Bella Vista. It's located on the west slope of the Andes Mountains in cloud forest habitat. He'll come home in March.

Phil is having a great time, but every time he calls to give me an update on the latest cool stuff he's seen, he mentions home and that he misses the OYBC field trips. We miss him too!

The following is an update from Phil about his experiences so far. He's pretty busy, so it's in list form. But it still gives you an idea of what it's like to be a young birder in Ecuador!

Phil writes:

Hey, this is a late message of how things are going. Been here about 2 1/2 months, and seen about 550 or so species of birds. My life list is at about 1100. #1000 was Dark-backed Woodquail. I'll send pictures soon. I miss the OYBC.

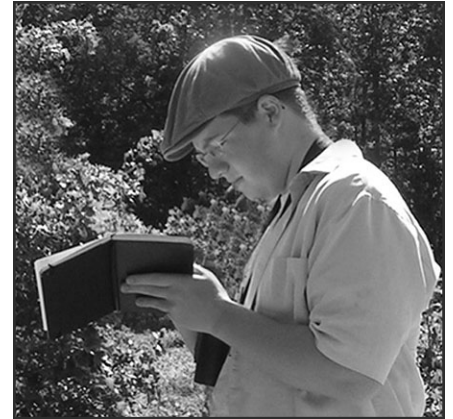
Highlights:

Birds

- Rufescent Screech-Owl
- Long-wattled Umbrellabird
- Swallow and Lyre-tailed Nightjars
- Red-capped Manakin Lek
- Oilbird caves
- 55/78 Tumbesian Endemics
- 51/75 Choco Endemics
- Sword-billed Hummer
- 55 species of Hummingbird
- El Oro Parakeet and Tapaculo
- Plumbeous Forest-Falcon
- White-tailed Jay
- Collared Antshrike
- Things with Ant in the name
- Grass-green Tanager
- TANAGER FINCH
- All 7 West-slope Mountain Tanagers umm yeah pretty much everything

Other good stuff

- Good 1 dollar meals, 5 dollar hotel rooms, and 40 cent soda
- Working with nice people
- Huasi Pichai (a kind of housewarming party -- when someone has a new house or apartment (new to them, not necessarily brand new) they'll throw a big party. People may bring gifts, but it seems like the main point is just to have a party in the new place. It comes from the Quechua language, with huasi meaning "house" and pichai meaning approximately "welcome.")
- The view every morning and the Andes mountains in general...
- Cheap travel
- Orange Fanta everywhere (it's a soft drink)
- Fritada (Oh God, I'm going to die of a massive heart attack)



- Andean Agouti
- Spectacled Bear
- 4 foot long worms and 6 inch long grasshoppers
- 8 consecutive days of vacation every month
- Being taller than everyone!
- Birding for 2 days with Robert Ridgely
- Life in general.

Lowlights:

- Walking 46 km each way to Yanacocha; Getting lost; Sleeping in my clothes above treeline, it was cold and wet and lame. But I did get in some good birding and I saw a Spectacled Bear!
- The ladder at the oilbird caves (over 150 ft, handmade, bamboo, wet)
- Guiding for 3 hours with a ridiculous Ecuadorian Flu
- Guiding for a 5 year old and 7 year old while their parents took a nap
- 15 Hour bus rides
- Eating rice until you want to not eat anything ever again
- Telling people 6 times a day, "That's Spillmann's Tapaculo calling"
- 22 consecutive days of work
- Traveling alone
- Missing friends and family
- Lack of pizza, wings and Dr. Enuf (a drink kind of like Dr. Pepper)
- Watching good movies that have been terribly dubbed in Spanish
- Sticking out like a big gringo sore thumb everywhere you go

That's all for now.
Adios, Phil

OYBC Field Trips & Events ~

We ask that you please call and register for all field trips so we can notify you of any change of plans and meeting locations. We may decide to chase a rare bird and we don't want you to miss it! To register call 419 898-4070 and leave a message with a contact number. Thank you.

Looking for Gulls at E72nd Street

Saturday, January 24, 2009 9:00 AM to Noon

Sponsor: Kirtland Bird Club

This trip takes us along the shoreline, east of the Cuyahoga River and West of Mentor. We will stop at other locations depending on weather conditions: Merwin Street for Night Crown Herons, Burke Lakefront Airport for Snowy Owl, East 55 St Marina for Ducks and possibly Eastlake Power Plant and Sims Park for ducks (if the lake is not frozen).

Leader: Jerry Talkington & Paula Lozano

Target species: Glaucous, California and Thayer's Gulls, Snowy Owl

Note: Transportation on your own. No fee.

Directions: Take the Cleveland Memorial Shoreway/I-90 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive exit. Proceed west on North Marginal Drive to East 72nd Street parking lot.

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

BSBO's Winter Blues Blowout Party

Sunday, February 1st, 2009 9:00 AM

Sponsor: Black Swamp Bird Observatory

This is an annual BSBO event and the OYBC members are invited in search of owls and shrikes. We will have a potluck lunch at the Killdeer Plains WA Sportsman's Center and those who wish can continue birding after lunch.

Leaders: Kenn & Kim Kaufman

Target species: Long-eared, Saw-whet, & Short-eared Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, & shrikes

Note: Potluck lunch included at the Killdeer Plains Sportsman's Center, bring a dish to share. Birding on your own after lunch.

Transportation: The BSBO birding bus will leave the Observatory at 7:00 AM.

Directions: BSBO is located at 13551 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449.

Killdeer Plains WA is 8 miles south of Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

The Sportman's Center is located between the corner of Twp. Hwy 108 and former County Highway 75: Take SR-67 south out of Upper Sandusky to SR-294 west. Take TH-108 south to CH-71 west. Take TH-123 south to former CH-75.

Please call BSBO 419 898-4070 to let us know you are coming

Shreve Migration Sensation Field Trip

Shreve Elementary School

598 North Market Street (State Route 226)

Shreve, Ohio 44676

Saturday, March 28, 2009 8 AM to 6:00 PM

Sponsor: Greater Mohican Audubon Society

This is an annual event in Shreve Ohio and is scheduled during prime migrating waterfowl migration. We will stop at several birding locations manned by expert GMAS birders.

Meet at: Meet at the Shreve High School at 8:00 AM.

Leaders: Members of GMAS

Target species: Migrating waterfowl

Note: There is a registration fee of \$10.00 if you plan attending the afternoon programs.

OYBC Field Trips & Events (cont'd)

Transportation: The BSBO birding bus will leave the Observatory at 6:00 AM and returning by 8:00 PM.

Reservations: Absolutely required – 419-898-4070.

Directions: The Shreve Migration Sensation location is 20 miles south of Wooster, Ohio on SR-226 at 588 North Market Street at the Shreve Elementary School.

Warblers, Osprey and an Overnight at McCoy Nature Center

Columbus, Ohio area

Saturday, April 18, 2009 - 9:00 AM to Sunday, April 19, 2009 – 3:00 PM

Sponsors: Preservation Parks of Delaware County & Columbus Audubon

Meet at the cemetery Office on the right near the entrance.

This trip includes a morning bird walk led by Columbus Audubon members at Green Lawn Cemetery to look for early migrants and an afternoon of watching the courtship ritual of the resident Ospreys at Hogback Preserve. We will campout Saturday night at the McCoy Nature Center at Hogback Preserve and bird the preserve Sunday morning before departing for home. Dinner and breakfast included. Come prepared with information you have researched about Osprey.

Transportation: The BSBO Birding bus will leave from the Observatory at 6:30 AM or travel on your own.

Reservations: Absolutely required – 419-898-4070.

Fee: \$15 with transportation on the BSBO bus or \$7 without.

Directions to Green Lawn Cemetery: From I-71 take Exit 105 turn right onto Greenlawn Ave. Head West directly into the Cemetery and meet at the office near the entrance.

Notes: Bring Lunch for Saturday, a sleeping bag, and money for lunch on the way home on Sunday.

Magee Marsh Boardwalk – Looking for Warblers

Saturday, May 23 - 8:00 AM to ???

Oak Harbor, Ohio

Sponsor: Toledo Naturalist's Assoc.

Leader: TNA

Where else would we want to be in May? The Toledo Naturalist's Assoc will head us down the boardwalk in search of warblers and vireos.

We will bird the northwestern area of Ohio searching out migrants. Meet at the Observatory and we will car-pool from there.

Transportation: On your own

Reservations: Absolutely required – 419-898-4070. Free.

Directions: BSBO is located at 13551 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Notes: Bring your lunch if you plan to stay the day.

Breeding Bird Atlassing Service Project in Belmont County (Moundbuilder Country) and Campout at Barkcamp State Park

Friday, June 19 to Sunday, June 21

We will be surveying a block in Southeast Ohio and camping out at Barkcamp. Saturday breakfast lunch and dinner provided.

Sponsor: Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Project

Leader: John Sawvel

Transportation: The BSBO birding bus will leave from the Observatory at 5:00 PM on Friday night, else transportation on your own.

Directions: Barkcamp State Park is located at 65330 Barkcamp Road in Belmont, OH 43718.

Take I-77 south to I-70 east to SR-149. The park is west of Wheeling, West Virginia.

Notes: Bring your tent and sleeping bag.

Reservations: Absolutely required – 419-898-4070. **Fee: \$20**



Chapter and Partner Field Trips ~

QUEEN CITY BIRDERS, CHAPTER OF THE OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB (Cincinnati Area)

For trip date & location updates visit
www.cincinnatibirds.com/oybc/

January, date TBA

Chasing Crossbills and Grosbeaks
Leader: Dave Russell/AREI

February, date TBA

Chasing Crossbills and Grosbeaks
Leader: Dave Russell

March, date TBA

Owls & Woodcock at Hueston Woods
Leader: Dave Russell

BLACK RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY'S YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB (Lorain Area)

For further info call 440-322-7449

January 10, 2009, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

YOUNG BIRDER'S CLUB HIKE: Winter Birds

Sandy Ridge Reservation

6195 Otten Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Directions: From Avon, Avon Lake: Take Rt. 254 west to Case Rd., and turn left onto Case Rd. Take Case Rd. to Otten Rd. Turn left onto Otten Rd. Drive to park entrance or call 440-327-3626.

February 7, 2009, 9:00 AM - Noon

YOUNG BIRDER'S CLUB HIKE: Lake Erie Edition

French Creek Reservation

4530 Colorado Avenue, Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054

We'll meet here and then caravan to a couple of "hotspots" along the Erie shore for gulls and ducks.

Directions: From Oak Harbor or Cleveland: Take Rt. 2/I-90 to Rt. 611 Exit 151 for Avon. Turn right off of the exit ramp onto Rt. 611 (Colorado Ave). Go about two miles on Rt. 611 (past the Rt. 301 N. intersection). The entrance for the Nature Center will be on the left. (If you reach the intersection of Rt. 611 and East River Rd., you have gone too far) or call 440-458-5121.

March 14, 2009, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

YOUNG BIRDER'S CLUB HIKE: Waterfowl

Sandy Ridge Reservation

6195 Otten Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Directions: From Avon, Avon Lake: Take Rt. 254 west to Case Rd., and turn left onto Case Rd. Take Case Rd. to Otten Rd. Turn left onto Otten Rd. Drive to park entrance or call 440-327-3626.

OYBC PARTNERS

Aullwood Audubon Center

Black River Audubon

Canton Audubon Society

Cincinnati Bird Club

Columbus Audubon

Dayton Audubon Society

Friends of Magee Marsh

Greater Mohican Audubon Society

Campbell Cottage B & B

Kaufman Publications

Kelley's Island Audubon Club

Kirtland Bird Club

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Local Patch Birding

Ohio Ornithological Society

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Assoc.

Oxbow, Inc.

Prairie Rose Farm

Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Toledo Naturalist Association

Wild Ohio for Kids (ODNR)

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~ Artist's Gallery ~

Featuring Bret McCarty's Odonata Photography



Stream Cruiser



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Black-billed Magpie



Cerulean Warbler

2008 OYBC Field Trip Photos ~



Tom Bartlett giving us a shorebird banding demonstration at Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge with a close up of a Pectoral Sandpiper. Shorebird Field Trip, August 17, 2008, sponsored by Local Patch Birding.



Exploring the Alvar and the North Quarry
Kelleys Island Weekend Field Trip, September 12 - 14, 2008, sponsored by the Kelleys Island Audubon Club.



Morning field trip at Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area
2nd Annual OYBC Conference, October 4 & 5, 2008
Photos by John Sawvel

Prairie Rose Farm: One of the Best Trips Ever, July 26-27, 2008 by Lukas Padegimas ~

The two days spent at Prairie Rose Farm created many wonderful memories of a paradise. The story began when two people from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Donna and Tim Daniel, bought a plain fifty acre farm. However, over the past 12 years, they managed to turn it into a beautiful, wildlife paradise with many warm and cold season prairies filled with numerous wildflowers. The amount of work they did was breathtaking.

When the Young Birders arrived at the residence, we were given a quick introduction by Donna, and later we went on a hayride to see the grounds. There were many fields; all of them full of butterflies. It was amazing to see so many Black Swallowtails flying in the area. The fields also hosted a lot of other butterflies that are not as often found. The trick consisted of Donna and Tim making it their goal to have a food plant for every butterfly that could be found in the Eastern United States. The prairies also seemed really good for some sparrows. We made it our goal to make a list of birds found in the fields.

Afterward, we were given a set amount of time to be free to roam the property and search for different fish in the stream, and look for birds, butterflies, examine plants, etc. I went to search for some interesting butterflies. The first one that caught my eye was a beautiful Giant Swallowtail. I had never seen one before, but I recognized at first sight since I have looked at it many times in the field guide.

Very interesting and new to me was that Donna and Tim had put out a lot of rotten fruit. This attracted several butterflies that rarely frequent flowers. Hackberry Emperors, Tawny Emperors, Question Marks, Commas, Red Admirals, and Red-spotted Purples were numerous. The flowers attracted many Monarchs, Red Spotted Purples, Viceroy's, American Snout, Cloudless Sulphurs, Summer Azures, Black Swallowtails, Spicebush Swallowtails, Wood Nymphs, Meadow and Great-spangled Fritillaries.

Meanwhile, several other Young Birders managed to catch a trout, a Hog

Sucker, Creek Chubs, and many other fish. Prairie Rose Farm fascinated us with its beauty. Because of the abundance of so many wildflowers, especially in front of the house, one could see at least 10 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at one time. The Hummingbirds were an amazing sight to watch; they would "speak to one another" and chase each other around. They also came to feed at the flowers and they could be seen snatching insects out of the air too – a great place to observe hummingbirds.

Later, we gathered around a campfire and discussed what we had seen. Soon, it was time for everyone to put up tents. Everyone started at different times, but it did not take long. Afterward, some of the Young Birders decided to feed the chickens a some invasive Japanese Beetles that had been captured in specially designed traps. While plants probably don't like these beetles for the extreme damage they can do, the chickens absolutely loved them.

Then, we went to the barn. The top of the barn had a colony of both Little Brown and Big Brown Bats, coexisting peacefully. In the barn Tim had setup a laptop computer that was running a Power Point presentation which showed the basics of how bats hunt. They hunt by echolocation. There was also really neat video footage of dancing bats that really helps people remember how they hunt. One interesting fact that most people overlook is that bats actually go for big juicy moths instead of mosquitoes. After watching the videos we set up backlights to attract moths and painted bait for moths onto several tree trunks.

Then we all gathered in the yard to watch the bats leave the barn for the night to hunt. As soon as the sun began to set, they started flying out in really large numbers. The bats generally flew out of one place – a hole in the wall of the second floor. Tim also had a Bat Detector that registered the echolocation of both species of bats. It was really cool to hear the bats fly and call. The Bat Detector could tell the difference between a Little or Big Brown bat because their echolocation is at two different speeds. Little

Browns, the clicks on the Bat Detector were very fast, and for the Big Browns they sounded much slower. Their flight styles are very different too. The Big Browns always seem to know exactly where they are going and fly in a straight line, while the Little Browns did not and made very sharp turns when flying. It was obvious to see the behavioral difference on the spot. After a large group of bats finally flew out of the barn and only a few came out, it was time to check the backlight and the bait.

Upon reaching the bait, we found several gigantic underwing moths feeding on the bait. The bait also attracted a lot of different species of underwings and other colorful moths. As night progressed, and it became darker and darker, more and more moths arrived at the bait. The backlight, unlike last year, did not attract many moths. It was amazing to see how moths could truly cover trees. Later we had dinner cooked over the campfire. The food was really good, but some were just too worried about seeing all the different moths to eat the food. The moth gathering lasted until 12:30, and when the last of the adults went to bed, we had to go to bed too.

Waking up the next day was rather easy since it was surprisingly cold outside, and my sleeping bag was not really keeping me warm enough. One by one, everyone else was getting up too. We then had our breakfast and set out to bird. We did not see too many birds, but a lot of butterflies. There were no really big highlights except for the fact that Indigo Bunting and Eastern Bluebirds in the area were really beautiful. After getting back to camp, everyone packed up. Afterward, we got a wonderful tour by Donna detailing about all the different wildflowers that were in her prairie garden. The tour was very interesting and educational.

At the end, we met by the campfire and discussed what we saw and shared our lists. It was a wonderful trip and probably one of the best ones our club has ever had. Many thanks to Donna and Tim for giving us such an enjoyable time!

The Golden-Wings Photo Quiz by Kenn Kaufman ~



At first glance, a photo like this might seem impossibly tough: shown in shades of gray, not color, and with hardly any markings visible. But if we study it, there really is enough here for an identification.

The overall shape of the bird is always a good place to start, and this bird has a very distinct shape. Its body looks slim, and it has a short neck, a rounded head, and a very small bill. Its wings are large for the size of its body, but the tail is very short, and squared off or somewhat notched at the tip. That overall structure of slim body, tiny bill, short tail, and long wings could only fit a swallow or a swift. The wings on this bird look too broad and triangular for a swift - - we would expect the wings to look very narrow and curved on a swift - - so this has to be a swallow.

Only a handful of swallow species are possible in Ohio, so we can narrow this down pretty quickly. The tail is all wrong for Barn Swallow. Bank Swallow should have more contrast between white throat and dark chest band. Tree Swallow should always have a white throat (even on young birds that show a darker wash across the chest). Northern Rough-winged Swallow shouldn't have such sharp contrast on the face, and the dusky area on the chest should extend farther down.

A female Purple Martin could look sort of like this, with a kind of face mask and with dusky on the throat and sides. But on this bird the belly looks too white, and the tail looks too short and not forked enough.

The only commonly occurring swallow left is Cliff Swallow. The shape of this bird looks right, the pale belly looks right, but the throat just doesn't seem dark enough. However, there's another possibility. The Cave Swallow is related to Cliff Swallow and looks a lot like it, but its throat is a much paler tan color, contrasting with the black face mask and cap and the dark chestnut forehead. Cave Swallow doesn't nest any closer to us than Texas, but it has had a huge population increase in Texas since the 1970s. Now almost every fall, large numbers of Cave Swallows are showing up in the northeastern United States. Ohio has had many records during the last two fall seasons; most are along Lake Erie, but they could turn up anywhere in the state.

Now here's another quiz photo...

The bird isn't as rare in Ohio as the Cave Swallow, but it can be tricky, especially in black and white.

What is this bird, and why?



Welcome New Members ~

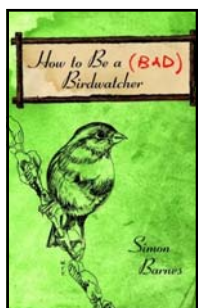
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Book Reviews by Sarah Winnicki ~

"Bird book" is a term generally viewed as a synonym to "field guide". But have you ever heard of a "bird novel?" Believe it or not, there are a large number of novels out today that involve birders. I would like to recommend a few of them that I have read.

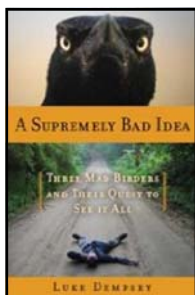


"How to be a (Bad) Birdwatcher"

by Simon Barnes (2004):

In his book, Barnes introduces the public to the "bad bird-watcher," which is the ordinary person who watches and enjoys birds not for ornithological or listing purposes, but for his own enjoyment. Birders and non-birders will enjoy this informative collection of both lectures and stories that put into light the very reasons that we bird. One of the reasons that I enjoy this book is the fact the Barnes is English, so he talks about various English birds, such as hobbies, but also makes comparisons with American birds. When reading this novel, don't be offended. Barnes often bashes "twitchers," which is the English equivalent of listers. However, this book is still one to be enjoyed by ordinary birdwatchers and twitchers alike.

"A Supremely Bad Idea - Three Mad Bird- ers and Their Quest to See It All" **by Luke Dempsey (2008):**

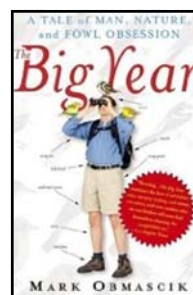


In this book, Dempsey tells the comical story of his birding life, starting as a man captivated by his friends and a Common Yellowthroat and ending as a hard-core lister, traveling through some of the scariest places in the United States to find some of the rarest birds. Readers will encounter all sorts of villains along the trail, such as vehicle-kicking Floridians, Osprey-scaring tourists, and drug-dealing murderers on the Mexican border, along with some fantastic bird sightings across the continent. Dempsey will take you on a ride in this new novel, but be forewarned, you might have an undeniable need to go birding after you finish.

"The Big Year by Mark Obmascik" (2004):

Obmascik takes you on a year-long journey as he covers the amazing story of three birders and their Big Years. The Big Year is an intense competition among birders in which participants try to find and identify the most bird

species in North America in an entire year. This story follows Sandy Komito, Al Levantin, and Greg Miller who participate in the record-setting 1998 Big Year. The whole story is filled with secrets, coincidental encounters, hundreds of last-minute flights, and crazed birding as the three birders race to beat the old record, beat their own record, and beat each other to claim the crown at the end of the year. Obmascik's book will keep you on the edge of your seat as each participant's Year is revealed.





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