



Ohio Young Birders Club

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4
Winter 2010



4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference
November 20 & 21, 2010
Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm
Dayton, Ohio

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Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

Coordinators

Ken Keffer
John Sawvel

Youth Advisory Panel

Wyatt Miller
Dakota Outcalt
Lukas Padegimas
Sarah Winnicki

The OYBC was founded by

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Dedicated to inspiring appreciation,
enjoyment, and conservation of
birds and their habitats through
research, education, and outreach.

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

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We are located at the entrance to
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Cover photo: Tim Daniel

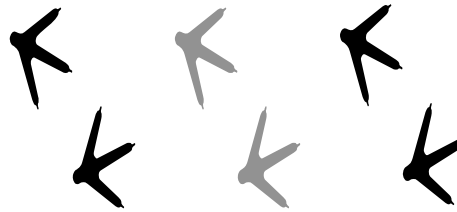
Special Announcements

OYBC Scholarships Available

John F. Gallagher Memorial Scholarship Fund

Ohio Young Birders Club scholarships are available to help young people who are interested in birds to attend summer camps, workshops, classes, training programs, conventions, and other bird-related activities. Funds for these scholarships come from our partners, private donations, and proceeds from special fund raising events. Applicants must be a current OYBC member between the ages of 12 and 18 to be eligible.

visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org/scholarships.htm for an application form,
or call BSBO at 419-898-4070 and we will mail you one.



The OYBC Needs Young Birders to serve on the club's Youth Advisory Panel (YAP)

Do you have what it takes to be on the YAP?

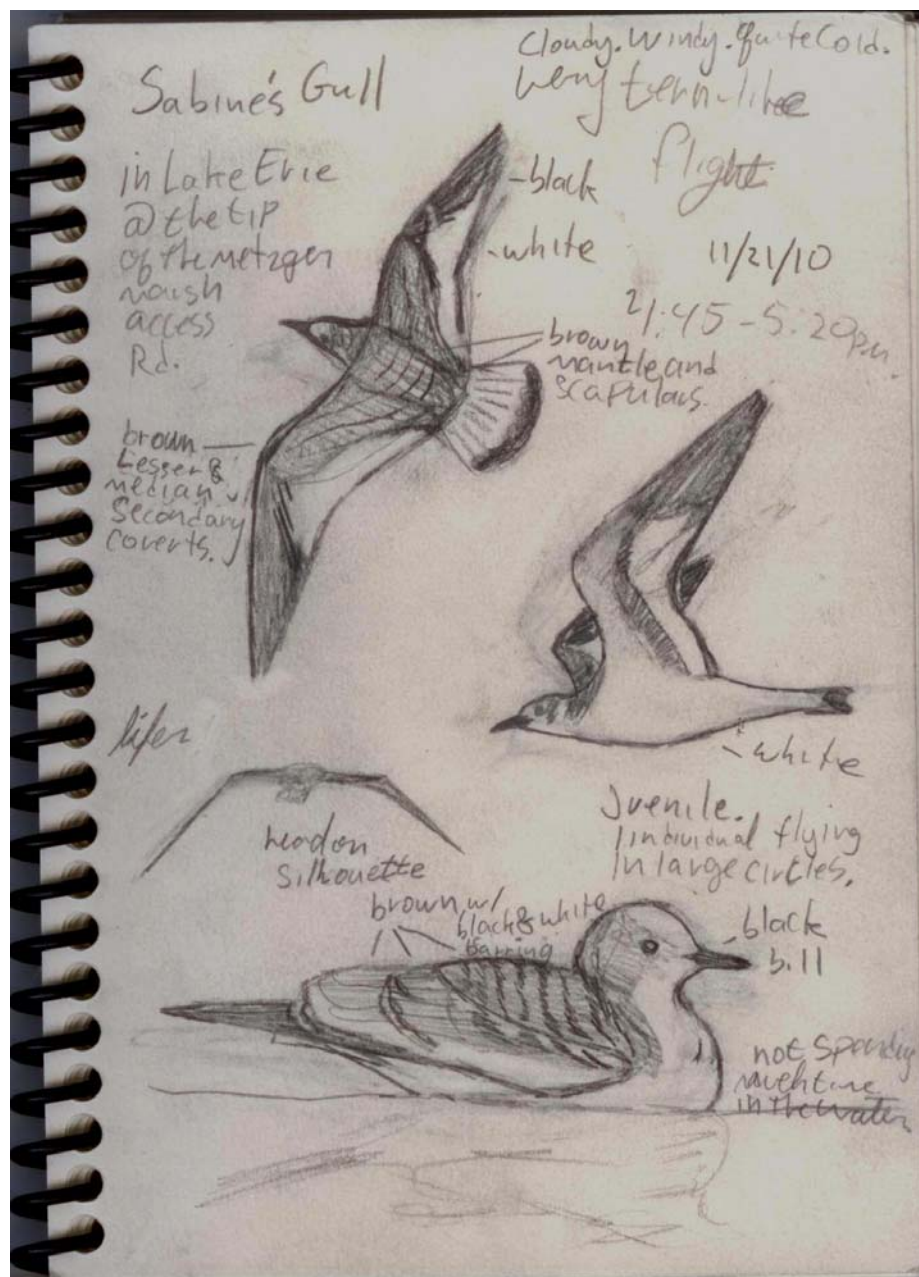
YAP members agree to the following responsibilities:

- 1). Attend four meetings per year of the OYBC planning committee
- 2). Serve as a representative and ambassador of the OYBC at all times and conduct yourself accordingly
- 3). List YAP and OYBC membership in your biography
- 4). Serve as a mentor to younger members of the OYBC
- 5). Write one article per year for the club newsletter, *Golden-Wings*
- 6). Be a current member of the OYBC

The OYBC is run by the Youth Advisory Panel with support from BSBO staff and volunteers. Without the YAP - there is no OYBC.
If you are interested in serving on the YAP, please contact BSBO.

Special Announcements

Sabine's Gull
Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area
November 21, 2010
Harold Eyster, age 17



Kirtland Bird Club Scholarships Available

The Kirtland Bird Club Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to assist individuals, who are interested in the study of natural science including birds and conservation, to attend classes, conferences, camps and programs. This effort supports the Club's purpose which is the study of birds. More information can be found at <http://www.kirtlandbirdclub.org/scholarships.htm>

GOLDEN-WINGS

Many thanks to all those who put time into this newsletter. Special thanks to:

Gerry Brevoort
Tim Daniel
Cole DiFabio
Susan Evanoff
Harold Eyster
Clare Jusdanis
Kathy McDonald
Lukas Padegimas
Kayla Parry
Robert Reynard
John Sawvel

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Ken Keffer

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

- Trip Reports
- Species Profiles
- Articles & Book Reports
- Sketches & Photos

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is February 1, 2010

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Cover Photo: Tim Daniel

Young Birder Profile . . . Spotlight on Claire Jusdanis, age 12



Claire Jusdanis and Jacob Stinnett presented at the 4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference and both are members of the OYBC Central Ohio Chapter's Youth Advisory Board.

Photo by Gerry Brevoort

GOLDEN-WINGS—In what year did you start birding, and who or what got you interested in birds?

Claire Jusdanis—*Actually I officially started this year. I got interested because I live right in front of a ravine, and I would always play down there and see all these birds!*

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

CJ—*Definitely all of the people that I met this year in the OYBC! Everyone always had great stories, facts, tips and more.*

GW—Do you have a favorite bird? What makes it your favorite?

CJ—*There are so many birds it is really hard to choose! It would have to be a race between the Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Beryl-spangled Tanager, Red-necked Tanager, and the Red Bird-of-paradise. These are my favorites because they're so beautiful, funny, and elegant.*

They all have a special characteristic that makes them so special to see, even if they're in a photo.

GW—Where is your favorite place to bird?

CJ—*Definitely the ravine that's in front of my house!*

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

CJ—*This bird doesn't live in Ohio, but someday I would love to see a male quetzal!*

GW—What would you say is your greatest accomplishment in birding thus far?

CJ—*I would have to say when I helped the OYBC Central Ohio Chapter put up bird feeders for my school, Indianola Informal K-8!*

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

CJ—*I'm interested in all areas of natural science! One of my most recent favorites is aquatic ecology, after my field trip to the OSU aquatic ecology lab.*

GW—Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

CJ—*I love to do crafts and spend as much time outside... besides sleeping!*

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

CJ—*None of my family are birders. Sure they will help me out, but I don't think it's really their thing! My friends will be interested, but I don't really think they'll get into it like I did. I'm really fine with it, it's not the end of the world if they don't like it like I do.*

GW—In your experience, what do most people your age think about birding, and if their view isn't totally positive, what can we do to change that?

CJ—*I think most people my age underestimate birding. When someone says "birding" the first thing that pops into their head is sitting for hours staring up at the sky and being super quiet. I think if schools would take kids on more outdoor field trips they would see that it is not all about sitting quietly staring up at the sky!*

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

CJ—*I think most people are already into nature, but I think that maybe if people see photos like waterfalls, flowers or animals, they'll say "wow, I really want to see that!" and then they'll see how great nature can be.*

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

CJ—*Totally. The internet can be a great place for young birders! People can blog to each other about what birds they saw, how many different species, where, what time and even share photos! But the best thing is that it is worldwide, so you can meet birders all around the world, even from France to Australia!*

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

CJ—*Not as a group, but I did get to go to Ecuador in South America last summer! It was probably the best birding experience for me! I saw about 20 different hummingbirds, toucans, parrots, an Andean Cock-of-the-rock and many more!*

GW—If you could go anyplace to see a

Young Birder Profile . . . Spotlight on Claire Jusdanis, age 12

bird, where would you go and what bird would you look for?

CJ—I would go back to Ecuador! I would try to find an Andean Cock-of-the-rock again!

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

CJ—The Ohio Young Birders Conference in Dayton was my first. (note: Claire teamed up with Jacob Stinnett to provide an excellent overview on the OYBC Central Ohio Chapter at the Conference.)

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

CJ—None sadly.

GW—Where do you go to school?

CJ—I go to Indianola Informal K-8

GW—What is your dream job?

CJ—I would like to do something with aquatic animals and be a photographer.

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

CJ—Well if I study aquatic animals I could have a jump start on sea birds. Also if I know how to act around birds that could help if I'm a photographer!

GW—What's your favorite place to eat?

CJ—I don't really eat out a lot. My dad likes to cook a lot.

GW—What are your favorite web sites?

*CJ—
www.birds.cornell.edu*

www.netflix.com

www.youtube.com

www.iheartradio.com

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

CJ—I have four fish.

GW—Do you volunteer anywhere?

CJ—I volunteer for the Whetstone Branch Library during the summer reading club.

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

CJ—Only one and that was the photography workshop at Prairie Rose Farm.

GW—Are you involved with any birding projects?

CJ—Not currently.

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

CJ—No I don't. I like to see the bird in person, not for just writing them down.

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

CJ—Yes. It's changed birding for by giving me another way to look at birds and their habitat!

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

CJ—The OYBC offers new friends, being outside in nature, exercise, and it puts you in a great mood.



Clare Jusdanis

*Interested in being
interviewed by
GOLDEN-WINGS?*

*Contact the
Ohio Young Birders Club at
info@ohioyoungbirders.org
or 419-898-4070!*

Your Organization Can Become an OYBC Sponsor Today!

Do your part to encourage our youth to learn more about birds and the natural world around them.

Support the Ohio Young Birders Club at one of the following levels:

- _____ \$1,000 – BALD EAGLE LEVEL
- _____ \$750 – PEREGRINE FALCON LEVEL
- _____ \$500 – RED-TAILED HAWK LEVEL
- _____ \$100 – AMERICAN KESTREL LEVEL

Visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org for a sponsorship form

Backyard Struggle for Survival by Lukas Padegimas, age 17



Ever since my mother started her extensive backyard renovation project, the diversity of life in my backyard multiplied exponentially. The boring grass field became transformed into a little paradise after more than 60 bushes were planted in less than a month's time. While catbirds, sparrows, doves, and grackles choose greenery to build their nests, a pair of American Robins chose the gutter. The robin's nest prospered at first. A healthy batch of four fledglings slowly grew until one mid-May afternoon.

I returned from school to find the nest overturned on the ground with a gaping hole at its bottom. Three fledglings were nowhere to be found; maybe they were eaten. I found one cold, motionless, lifeless fledgling lying nearby. Yet, after being in my hand for two minutes, the "dead" bird came alive. Severely dehydrated with its tongue stuck to the roof of its mouth, the hungry little robin opened its mouth begging for food. After giving it two earthworms and pipetting it with water, the robin gained much energy and started to move. But where could I put it? No parents were around to screech at me, no nursery waiting to hold a robin fledgling, no private individual wanting to do so, and to top it all, an AP chemistry exam the next day for me.

There was no way I could take care of it; I had an important exam the next day, and I was leaving in a few days for Washington D.C. My little brother had an idea. He took a small

straw hat from a doll and brought it to me. It was the perfect way to repair that hole in the nest. It was the only chance the fledgling had, so I carefully repaired the nest and stabilized it in its original position. With much hope, I went inside to study.

It took ten minutes before the American Robin parents started to attend to this little one. I felt relieved and finally got to my studying, but a new threat presented itself. How do you feel when you have worked very hard on something and then it is in danger of a likely failure?

For example, a huge storm with winds that could bring trees down came along. After checking the nest several times during the lightning storm, I went to bed. The next morning, the nest was still there and the little robin was sticking its head out of that nest and begging for food.

Two weeks later, that same robin was running about in our backyard with both parents. The struggle for survival played out in my own backyard, resulting in one little robin surviving against all odds.

Lukas Padegimas has been a birder since August, 2005.



Lukas was always fascinated with wildlife, especially butterflies, but birding now comes first. In 2007, Lukas joined the OYBC, and by 2008, he was part of the Ohio Young Birders Club Youth Advisory Panel (YAP). His favorite bird group to watch is definitely the shorebirds. Besides birding, Lukas has many other interests, including conservation, history, archeology, music, and insect identification.

November 13 Pelagic Trip by Cole DiFabio, age 13



Pomarine Jaeger
above



Ring-billed Gulls
right

On November 13, 2010, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Discovery Tours of Cleveland, and Great Outdoors Radio hosted a pelagic boat trip. The trip took place in Cleveland on Lake Erie and on the Cuyahoga River. The leaders for this pelagic were John Pogacnik, Gabe Leidy, and Mark Shieldcastle. The weather was unusual for a November pelagic on Lake Erie, with the temperature at a balmy 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The weather was beautiful and everybody had great looks at awesome birds.

Highlights of the trip were many amazing birds. A fly-by BLACK SCOTER was a treat for many. While a very cooperative POMARINE JAEGER provided very exciting and unbelievable looks. Red-breasted Mergansers were present in large amounts. Only four gull species were seen, Great Black-

backed Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, and Bonaparte's Gull. Other birds spotted included seven species of raptor including Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Peregrine Falcon. A flock of about 35 Snow Buntings along Burke Lakefront Airport was nice also.

The weather was great along with the many awesome birds. It was a fantastic trip overall and thanks to everybody who made this trip possible.

Cole DiFabio has been a birder for 8 years and has accumulated



a life list of 251 species. He joined the OYBC in 2010 and is a regular contributor to the Ohio Birds listserv, eBird, and active with Blackbrook Audubon Society. Cole is also the creator of www.jrbirder.com which includes photographs, articles, and links on birding for junior birders. Aside from birding Cole enjoys playing basketball, reading, traveling, and running.

The Ohio Birds 4-H Project Part II by Kayla Parry, age 12

The Ohio Birds Project is a two-year experience with an optional self-determined third-year phase. Kayla Parry's article describes the first year, while an article in the next issue of Golden-wings will show us how year two is designed. For more information on Ohio Birds, contact your local 4-H Office or the Ohio State University Extension Office. This is Part Two of an article from the Summer/Fall issue.

Year Two

The second year of the Ohio Birds 4-H project begins with another Planning Your Project section deciding the dates you plan on doing all of the Interest Areas.

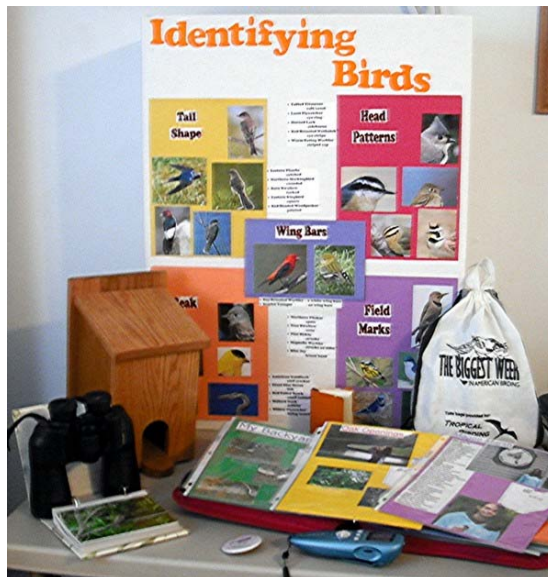
Interest Area #1 Bird Identification Review

In this section you have to fill in a chart explaining the similarities and differences between a Mourning Dove and a Northern Mockingbird. It also has tips on what time of day is best for birding and spotting birds. This year's project is much more complicated than last year's. You have to find and observe 30 new species of birds that are different from last year's 20. For year two you must also record the date, time, and weather when you saw the bird along with the bird's name, habitat, size, shape of head and beak, behavior, color, and voice.

Interest Area #2 Adaptations to Habitats

Water, wooded, and meadow/grassland habitats are explained, and then you have to go on field trips to each of these habitats. You observe the birds you see there and then answer discovery questions about the birds and habitats.

Then you move on to Digging Deeper activities. It is required to complete two of the three of these. In the first one, you must visit two different water habitats, three times each, at about the same time of day. After counting how many birds you see of each species, you must fill out the date, time of day, the weather, and the number of birds of each species



Outstanding Ohio Birds 4-H Display by Kayla Parry

you see for each trip. After you complete this you must answer discovery questions about your trips.

In the second Digging Deeper activity you have to make a collage with pictures of birds used as symbols, and then explain what the symbols are of and what you think they mean.

In the last Digging Deeper activity you have to go to a meadow/grassland habitat and observe and make a map of all of the nesting pairs you see. You would visit this habitat twice, once in the spring and once in early summer. It also says to report this to your 4-H club.

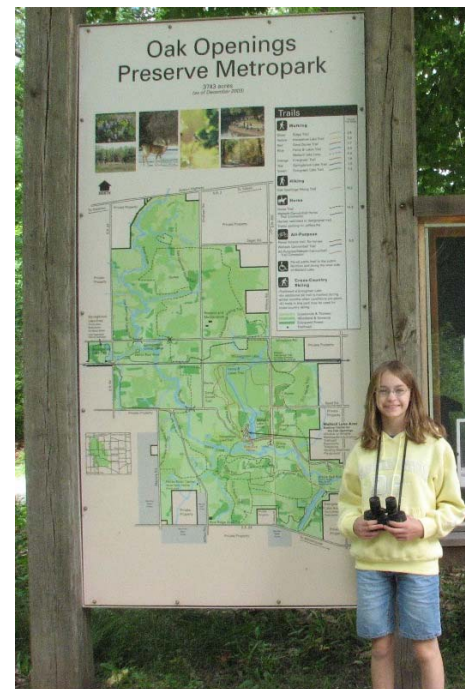
Some clubs may not require anything else, but ours requires that you make a bird house or feeder to put on display at the county fair. Then you have to complete two out of five Learning Experiences or plan your own. You can give a presentation to a local chapter of the Audubon Society, make an exhibit for your library on birds, visit one of Ohio's state parks with an adult, participate in county project judging, tour a natural history museum, or plan your own. Then you have to fill out a chart on what you did.

Next you have to choose two of the

Leadership/Citizenship activities and report when you did them. You can plan your own on these, too.

At the end of your project, you have to write a one-page essay on what you learned from taking this project. Throughout the book in both years there are fun facts captions that just share some information on birds, too.

***Kayla Parry**, age 12 lives in Hamler, Ohio, with her parents, big sister Lindsay, little brother Jacob, 16 chickens and a cat named Milk Way! She has been a member of the Marion Express 4-H club since 2003. At the 2010 Ohio State Fair, Kayla was honored with the Clock Award for Outstanding Ohio Birds Project. This coveted award recognizes her efforts, and the Ohio Young Birders Club congratulates her on this outstanding accomplishment.*



Ask OYBC about becoming a sponsor!

4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference

I was very impressed by the presentations given by the student members of the Ohio Young Birders Club. These young people have had some amazing experiences because of their love of birds and birding, and shared their knowledge in a professional and entertaining way. It was inspiring to hear them and to realize that at least some young people will carry on conservation efforts in the future. They understand the importance of ecology, biodiversity, and ecosystems.
Hope Taft, former Ohio First Lady



Thanks to Tim Daniel, Gerry Brevoort, and Susan Evanoff for sharing photographs of the event!

Madelyn Sanford releases a chickadee during the morning banding demonstration.

Susan Williams, Education Director at Raptor Inc provided live birds on display for conference participants to learn about and enjoy.



I loved holding a bird and learning the right way to release it -- right-side up! I also made some great new friends. I thought Aullwood Audubon Center was wonderful, full of fascinating things, and I want to bring my whole family to see it soon.
Clare Jusdanis, OYBC Central Ohio Chapter



The Sunday morning field trip was to waterfowl hotspots in and around Dayton, and was led by Aullwood Audubon Education Director Tom Hissong.



Robert Reynard,
Master of Ceremony



The OYBC Central OH Chapter was well represented at the conference.

Such a great experience! I learned about lots of cool camps that other students went to over the past year. I would love to go to one, too! Before the OYBC conference started, I got to do bird banding. I was able to hold a Carolina Chickadee. It was amazing to feel its heart pump in your hand and feel its soft feathers. I am so thankful that the Central Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club is supported by a North Face grant. It helps us to take really cool trips like this one and to learn more about fun conservation activities and camps that I, and other members of my chapter, can take part in.
Jacob Stinnet, OYBC Central Ohio Chapter

4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference

The 4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference was a tremendous experience! The keynote speaker, Harold Eyster, was absolutely awesome. I'm excited about the young birders that are coming onto the scene.

John C. Robinson, noted author and conservationist



Wyatt Miller won the Eagle Optics binoculars door prize



Keynote Speaker Harold Eyster sketched this Pileated Woodpecker on the Saturday field trip



Ceth Williams (center) was the winner of the Kaufman Bird I.D. Quiz, seen here with Dakota Outcalt (left) and Kenn Kaufman (right). Special Thanks to Mr. Kaufman for donating copies of his field guides as prizes!

Great conference! The Ohio Junior Naturalist members particularly liked the Conservation Careers Panel. We hope you think about having that as a feature in the years to come! Very informative and interesting!

Jan Ferrell, Coordinator, Junior Naturalists, Ohio Bird Sanctuary

I really liked my door prize! Seriously though, I thought the drawing for prizes was good. I also liked Kenn Kaufman's bird quiz because it was challenging, competitive and I learned more about some of the birds in the quiz.

Doug Whitman, OYBC Central Ohio Chapter



I found my self in the midst of the most fascinating young people I have ever met, the epitome of uniqueness; they are a group of their own. Their knowledge is as exquisite as their variety of interests. Their remarkable collections have already created a competition by museums on who shall receive these future acquisitions. And lastly, their minds are dynamos of innovation. They are Ohio's intellectual elite. Some shall become future conservation leaders, and yet all will accomplish great deeds, perhaps changing the way future generations shall think as all are competitive and possess an unquenchable thirst for knowledge to better understand the world they live in.

Lukas Padegimas, OYBC Youth Advisory Panel

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Career Panel provided insight into careers in conservation. Pictured (R-L) Mark Shieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Tim Daniel, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Laura Bonneau, U.S.F.W.S. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Jared Merriman, former OYBC, Ball State University, Auriel Van Der Larr, former OYBC, Michigan Tech, Brad Wilkinson, former OYBC, Miami University, Lukas Padegimas, OYBC Youth Advisory Panel Member. (See page 12 for a full story on the panel.)

OYBC Central Ohio Chapter's First Service Project a Success

The Ohio Young Birders Club Central Ohio Chapter recently completed their first service project: a bird feeding station at Indianola K-8 School in Clintonville, a Columbus neighborhood.

This project is the first element of a planned "Outdoor Learning Lab," envisioned for the school grounds. Eventually, the feeding station will take its place among butterfly gardens and native plantings, a prairie area, an edibles garden, and composting and water reclamation areas. The school's curricula will make outdoor education an integral part of each Indianola student's experience. And now, with this feeding station, interacting with birds will also be part of that experience!



OYBC Central Ohio Chapter members with a newly installed bird feeding station at Indianola K-8 School. Photo by Gerry Brevoort

For weeks before the October 31st installation, OYBC students brainstormed about the feeding station. They, along with the adult advisors for the chapter, met with school representatives, performed a site survey, and submitted a proposed design sketch to school administrators. Donations of feeders, seed, suet, poles, baffles, and other hardware were gathered from generous friends and supporters of OYBC. Additional supplies were purchased with funds from an "Explore Fund" grant from North Face, which the chapter was awarded earlier in the month.

On a beautiful autumn Sunday afternoon, five OYBC students, five fantastic OYBC parents, three folks from the school, two community members, and four OYBC advisors, and a Black Swamp Bird Observatory staffer all met at the school to put the whole project together at last! Over the next several hours, students dug mulch pits for beneath the feeders, installed landscaping edging, assembled the feeding stations with power tools, hand tools & a bit of sweat, lifted everything into place, and filled the feeders. Viola! The front yard of the school was transformed into a smorgasbord for feathered friends!

students. "This was so inspiring to watch!" she wrote in an email. "You are amazing to do that so quickly and so efficiently! Thanks so much. I can't wait to see birds and for our students to find them to watch!"

Cindy Gunn, an Indianola School parent who is very involved in the Outdoor Learning Lab effort, put it this way: "The students involved with the OYBC are emerging scientists with a genuine interest in their natural surroundings. Two of the participants have tracked birds along (nearby) Walhalla Road and these birds will now visit the feeders at the school. Since the OYBC chose to install the feeders at Indianola, the teachers, students, parents and community will be able to see the birds that share their environment, up close. It has been about a week since the feeders have been installed and the birds are starting to find them. It is a great gift to the school and community."

The OYBC students themselves are pretty proud of their efforts. Chapter member Clare Jusdanis says it's the greatest accomplishment she's experienced in birding thus far, and the entire group looks forward to planning their next service project.

Whatever the OYBC chapter decides to take on next, it's guaranteed to be done with energy and a desire to share with the broader community their love of birds and the great outdoors. As Indianola parent Cindy Gunn put it: "These kids are the true story and the leaders of tomorrow. (Their work at Indianola will) demonstrate to students the importance of caring for the world around them. I am truly amazed with the work done, and the enthusiasm of the kids...Thank you for this wonderful gift!"

Gerry Brevoort, OYBC Central Ohio Chapter Advisor



Congratulations to OYBC Central Ohio Chapter for receiving a \$2,500 grant from the Explore Fund, a grant-giving program supporting nonprofit organizations that get youth outdoors sponsored by The North Face.

2010 OYBC Big Sit for Conservation Raises \$3,400

Six Ohio Young Birders Club students participated in the 2010 Big Sit for Conservation fundraising event. Several adults helped throughout the day, including many Black Swamp Bird Observatory staff and board members and Black Swamp Conservancy Executive Director Kevin Joyce. The OYBC Big Sit was held October 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and was an effort to raise funds for the OYBC and for habitat restoration efforts of the Black Swamp Conservancy.

Our count circle was placed at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge near the southwest corner of the small woodlot that is located at the west edge of the old ONWR parking lot. We had an impoundment immediately in front of us when we faced west. The small woodlot was immediately behind us to the east, and a larger woodlot was across the nearby ONWR auto tour road to the south.

We had comfortable temperatures at the start with a calm wind and some scattered ground fog. Then the wind increased after 8:30 a.m., mixing the air, and it got chilly for a while at mid-morning. By late morning sunshine and brisk southwest winds ushered in unseasonably warm air.

A step ladder was used to help see birds in the impoundment. We brought soft, folding chairs to relax in, and to get some cool shade, we had a canopy tent. Two tables held snacks and treats, including crackers, cookies, pretzel sticks, pistachios, pumpkin pie, and a veggie tray with dip to provide a somewhat healthy option, while the cooler of water bottles came in handy during the warm afternoon.

In the afternoon, when adding new birds to the day list slowed dramatically, the students boarded the BSBO bus to partake in the ONWR auto tour while a few adults remained behind to monitor the count and eat the snacks.

Participants in the ONWR auto tour were drawn to our jamboree, and many stopped by to offer encouragement during the event. Bird observations were tracked using a large BSBO checklist. The fundraising efforts included donations and per species pledges.

On Saturday, October 16th, the OYBC had the honor of participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve, a project of the Lake Erie Island Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy. OYBC Youth Advisory Panel member Lukas Padegimas and BSBO Executive Director Kim Kaufman presented the Black Swamp Conservancy with a check for \$1700, which was half the proceeds of the Big Sit Fundraiser. The other half helps fund OYBC events, activities, and projects.

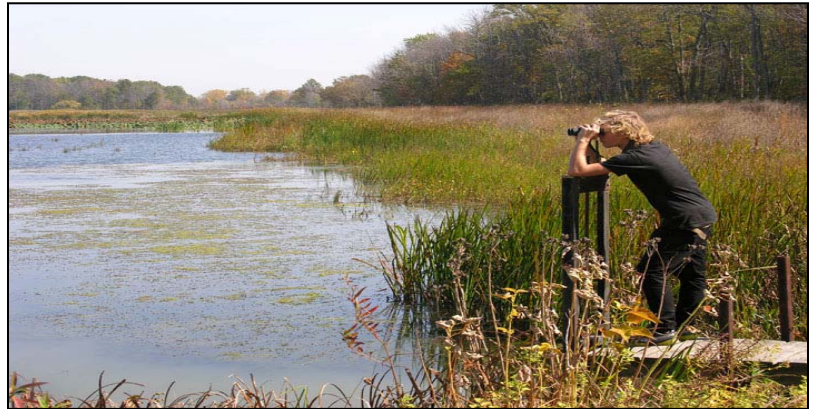
John Sawvel, OYBC Coordinator

62 species of birds were observed during the 2010 OYBC Big Sit for Conservation

Special sightings: Marsh Wren, American Bittern *Notable birds NOT observed:* Northern Cardinal, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush.



OYBC member Kayla Parry scans ONWR during the Big Sit.



Ohio Young Birders Club raises \$3,400 for conservation.

OYBC member Eliot Miller scans the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge marsh during the Big Sit.

Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Pintail
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk

American Coot
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Long-billed Dowitcher
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tree Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren

Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Swainson's Thrush
American Robin
European Starling
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch

My Life as a Birder by Robert Reynard

It was in the late fall of 2006 when my aunt took me out to a bird walk at North Chagrin Nature Center. I was 11 years old, and my family was going through a rough time. I needed some time away, so I asked if I could go with her on a bird walk. She said, "Sure, but I can almost guarantee that you'll be bored." I got up *early* that Sunday, and she could not have been more wrong.

As we walked up to the group of birders, I noticed the people standing there were really nice and friendly. They treated me like they knew me before, as if I was their friend. We ended up walking right next to the pond where they said a lot of ducks were hanging around. I turned the corner, and I couldn't believe my eyes. I picked up my borrowed pair of binoculars and fell in love with the gorgeous sight of the Wood Duck.

As I stood there gazing with amazement, my aunt also did too. She couldn't believe that I actually liked to go birding! I openly asked her, "Is that for real? Can a duck have that many colors?" She just laughed at that question as the naturalist told me about the ducks. Little did I know that that was the just the start of my birding career.

Birding has taken me to so many places around the state and in some cases, even out-of-state. Even though a lot of people don't really care to take notice of birding, I've met some really nice friends. I've met people my own age like Lucas, Wyatt, and Elliot. I've met some famous people who ended up becoming my friends like Kenn and Kim Kaufman. My birding experiences have also helped me get accepted as a volunteer with the Cleveland Metroparks.

The Cleveland Metroparks has given me experience in other things besides birding. In addition to the owl surveys I've been on, they let me help on the amphibian patrols late at night. Doing that sparked my interest in amphibians, and I've also taken interest in dragonflies and fungi. I have to give most of the credit of my interest in fungi and birding to my Aunt Marty and my good friend Fred Losi. They have both helped me in the long run. I have to give thanks to them, and also to my good friends in the birding world for my fun experiences.

Birding is a hobby that a lot of people don't like or have never taken the time to try out because it sounded boring. Truthfully, I thought the same thing at first, but my birding life has taken me all around the state and has introduced me a

whole bunch of new friends. It has sparked my interest in nature, and I am happy to have also sparked others who now have an interest for nature.



Robert Reynard is 15 years old and resides in Parma, Ohio. Robert volunteers with the Black Swamp Bird Observatory and Cleveland Metroparks. Besides nature, his favorite hobby is playing guitar. He also enjoys drawing and sports.

USFWS Conservation Careers Panel at Ohio Young Birders Conference

"The Ohio Junior Naturalist members particularly liked the Conservation Careers Panel. Very informative and interesting!"

Jan Ferrell, Coordinator, Junior Naturalists, Ohio Bird Sanctuary

The Ohio Young Birders Club is a proven gateway into conservation careers. Many of the founding members of the club are now pursuing biology and environmental education now that they are in college. In an effort to further enhance the opportunities for student members, a Conservation Career Panel discussion was held in conjunction with the 4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference. As they recognize that Young Birders Clubs are recruiting and training future conservation professionals, this panel was generously supported by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The diverse panel included current and former Ohio Young Birders Club members and noted Ohio professionals:

Lukas Padegimas: OYBC Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) Member
Brad Wilkinson: former OYBC YAP Member, Miami University
Auriel Van Der Laar: former OYBC YAP Member, Michigan Tech
Jared Merriman: former OYBC, Ball State University
Laura Bonneau: U.S.F.W.S. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
Tim Daniel: Ohio Division of Wildlife
Mark Shieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Moderator, Dr. David Russell, Miami University Professor

Dr. Russell did an outstanding job of weaving the narrative of the theme in with the panel's experiences. A recurring concept during the panel discussion was that Ohio Young Birders Club members and conference participants are already doing the right thing by being involved. Numerous panel members reinforced that volunteering is key to getting accepted into college, and to obtaining internships and jobs.

Each panel member was able to highlight positives from their own experiences, and these proved to be a true inspiration for audience members, especially the high school students in attendance. Auriel Van Der Laar mentioned that she is "doing what she loves." Lukas Padegimas stated that while he was initially more interested in archeology and history as career options, his involvement with the Ohio Young Birders Club led to "a realization that there is a real need for conservation work." Lukas realized that the OYBC is already helping him do "things that matter for conservation", and he now plans to pursue a conservation career upon completion of high school in May 2011.

The Ohio Young Birders Club has always strived to provide experiences that will highlight the potential of wildlife and conservation related careers. With the information gained from this USFWS Conservation Career Panel discussion the OYBC is now poised to strengthen this message even more. As the OYBC is being replicated across the country, the importance of building a career aspect into club activities will also be replicated. Following the Conservation Career Panel, former Ohio First Lady Hope Taft summarized, "It was inspiring to hear them and to realize that at least some young people will carry on conservation efforts in the future."



Thanks to the 4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference Sponsors



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North Bend, OH 45052

We urge you to write thank you letters to the Ohio Young Birders Conference Sponsors. The conference would not be possible without their generous support. Hand-written thank you notes have been warmly received in the past. BSBO Executive Director Kim Kaufman has promised a "really awesome" prize for everyone who sends thank you notes to the entire list.

Suggested message for thank you notes

Dear _____:

Thank you for supporting the 4th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference. Your support of the conference is greatly appreciated. One thing I learned at the conference was _____.

Sincerely,
Your name here

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

January—April, 2011

Fremont Christmas Bird Count

(NOTE NEW DATE)

Saturday, January 1, 2011 all day

OYBC participants are encouraged to participate in the longest citizen scientist project of its kind, the Christmas Bird Count. CBCs are held annually between December 14th and January 5th. Participants split up in teams and cover a portion of the count circle area, counting every individual bird they encounter during the count day. There are nearly 40 Christmas Bird Counts in Ohio, so there is *at least* one near you. For Fremont CBC assignments RSVP with BSBO at 419-898-4070. Participants will meet at Karen's Restaurant at 7:00 AM in downtown Fremont. The restaurant is located at 921 E. State St. It's a little difficult to spot from the road. The restaurant sits next to the Double A Motel, so look for a big green and yellow sign. Participants are also invited to the end of the day Compilation Pizza Party.

Winter Waterfowl & Gulls Along Cleveland's Lakefront with Kirtland Bird Club

Saturday, January 15th from 8:00 AM to Noon

Call BSBO for location and directions. This trip takes us along the Lake Erie shoreline near Cleveland, searching out winter gulls and waterfowl.

Dress for the weather.

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

Note: Transportation on your own.

Cost: FREE!

Directions: Final Location to be determine the week before the trip, based on bird activity and location accessibility. RSVP w/ BSBO for directions.

OYBC Central Chapter Animal Tracking

January 22nd 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Saturday, January 22nd from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM w/ optional tubing at Mad River Mountain to follow

The OYBC Central Ohio Chapter is coordinating this trip and all OYBC members are welcome!

What: Winter Wildlife Tracking with a professionally trained guide, Making bird feeding crafts with Donna Daniel of Wild Ohio TV, and *optional** tubing trip to Mad River Mountain afterwards.

Where: Prairie Rose Farm, 18295 Inskeep Catty Rd. North Lewiburg.

Contact: Gerry Brevoort jbrevoort@columbus.rr.com or Tim Daniel 937-578-3105.

The optional trip to tube on the hill at Mad River costs \$25 per person and includes 3 hours of hill time and your tube.

BSBO/OYBC Winter Blues Blowout at Killdeer Plains WA

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

Saturday, February 12th, 9:00 AM

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 Sportsmen's Center and those who wish can continue birding after lunch.

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, or, meet at the Sportsmen's Center at 9 AM.

Directions: Killdeer Plains is 8 miles south of Upper Sandusky, OH. The Sportsman'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!

Audubon Great Backyard Bird Count

February 19, 9:00 AM to noon

Clifford Banding Station, College Mt. St. Joseph, Cincinnati, OH

Hikes led by Western Wildlife Corridor. Indoor and outdoor opportunities for study.

Birding 101 class 10:00 to 11:00 AM.

More info: Please call 513.941.6497.

Shreve Migration Sensation at Shreve Elementary School

598 North Market Street (State Route 226)

Shreve, Ohio 44676

Saturday, March 26th from 8 AM to 5:00 PM

Meet at: Meet at the Shreve School at 8:00 AM to board the bus.

Target species: Migrating waterfowl

Note: There is a registration fee if you plan attending the afternoon programs.

Transportation: The BSBO birding bus will be leaving the Observatory at 5:30 AM and returning by 8:00 PM.

Reservations required: Call 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.

OYBC Central Ohio Birding

April 23

OYBC and OYBC Central Ohio Chapter team up for a field trip to various locations in central Ohio.

More details available soon.

Please call 419-898-4070 for details on any fieldtrip.

**Remember to
renew your
Ohio Young Birders Club
Membership for 2011!**

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

STUDENT MEMBERS

Daniel Bancroft
Gabe Bowling
Artemis Eyster
Harold Eyster
Larry H. Hershberger
Mackenzie Smitley
Ben Stefanko

ADULT MEMBERS

Virginia Bancroft
Gerry Brevoort
Nason S. Lightman
Diana Newman
Cheri Smitley
Elliot Tramer
Gale Wulker

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www.twitter.com/oybc

- Connect with young birders from around the world
- Learn about exciting opportunities like summer camps and volunteer programs specific to young birders
- Share your photos, artwork, poems, stories, and more!



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your membership

Ohio Young Birders Club New or Renewal Membership

Name: _____

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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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

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

___ \$ 10 - Student

___ \$ 20 - Adult Supporting Member

___ \$ 100 to \$1000 Sponsorship Levels

How did you hear about us? _____

Are you interested in volunteering? How? _____

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