



OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 1 WINTER 2012-2013

Encouraging, Educating, & Empowering our Youth Conservation Leaders

We are thrilled to announce the **BRAND NEW** OYBC website! Check out the website for all kinds of information for Ohio Young Birders, camps & scholarships, and one of our favorite features a monthly Bird I.D. Quiz with great prizes!



OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

Founded in 2006 by Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Encouraging, educating, and empowering our youth conservation leaders.



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MONTHLY BIRD PHOTO ID QUIZ

INTRODUCING THE MONTHLY
OYBC BIRD PHOTO ID QUIZ!

Each month we'll share a bird photo and offer some informational dues about the bird and its habitat. If you're up to the challenge, follow the instructions below and you could be eligible to win a pretty cool prize from Kaufman Field Guides!

2013 MARCH QUIZ: NAME THE VIREOS!
Name them left to right, please.
(And we don't mean Bob, Oen, Cindy, and Ralph!) :-)



Here's a hint: these birds were banded in the fall in northwest Ohio!

Send your answer to info@ohioyoungbirders.org with [March Bird Quiz] in the subject line.



The winning entries will be put into a drawing for a FREE copy of Kenn Kaufman's Field Guide to Advanced Birding!

SPONSORS

- Center Audubon Society
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- Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
- Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association
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- Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
- Wild Birds Unlimited - Toledo
- Wilderness Center Bird Club
- Ohio Ornithological Society



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Ohio Young Birders Club
(OYBC)

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

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The OYBC was founded by
Black Swamp
Bird Observatory
Teaming Research With Education
To Promote Bird Conservation

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

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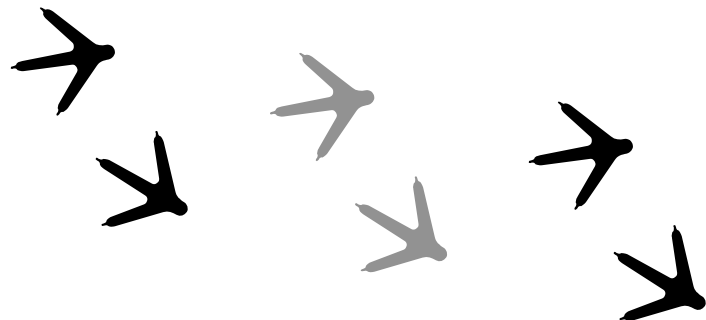
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Black Swamp Bird Observatory partners with
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
to present the
Young Birders Network

We are very excited to announce that Black Swamp Bird Observatory and Cornell Lab of Ornithology have joined forces in creating a national network for young birders! The Young Birders Network (YBN) aims to provide resources and networking opportunities to students, as well as adults involved in supporting student birding activities. Though the network is primarily geared for ages 12-18, younger birders and college students alike may also find relevant resources.

The website offers a comprehensive listing of clubs, opportunities, and other information relevant to young birders. You can find information about local clubs, summer jobs and events, college and career ideas, online discussion groups, and so much more.

Check out youngbirdersnetwork.net



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 fundraising events. Applicants must be current OYBC members 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.

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS & WORKSHOPS FOR 2013

American Birding Association (ABA) Camps:
www.aba.org

Camp Colorado- July 21-27, 2013 at Estes Park, CO
Camp Avocet- August 11-17, 2013 at Cape Henlopen State Park, DE

For more info contact Bill Stewart at 800.850.2473, or e-mail at: bstewart@aba.org

Cornell Lab of Ornithology: 5th Annual Young Birders Event
www.youngbirdersnetwork.net
August 22-25, 2013 in Ithaca, NY

Project Puffin: Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens
<http://hogisland.audubon.org/bird-studies-teens>

June 16-21 & June 23-28, 2013 on Hog Island, ME
Note: Currently SOLD OUT, however there is a waiting list

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO):
www.rmbo.org

Taking Flight Overnight Camp (Ages 12-14): June 9-14 - \$750/camper
Young Ecologists Day Camp (Ages 10-11): June 24-28 - \$250/camper

Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS)
Camp Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology & Nature (T.A.L.O.N)
www.gos.org

Camp T.A.L.O.N.—June 2-6, 2013
Will host 15 students, ages 12-16.
For more information, contact Julie Duncan at Julie.duncan@dnr.state.ga.us
or at (770) 784-3059

Texas Brigades: Wildlife Intensive Leadership Development
www.texasbrigades.org

Age Group: 13-17 years old
Rolling Plains Bobwhite- June 15-19, 2013
South Texas Bobwhite- June 23-27, 2013
Bass Brigade - July 8-12, 2013
Waterfowl Brigade-July 21-25, 2013

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT)
www.ventbird.com

Camp Chiricahua: August 6—17, 2013

Cleveland Museum of Natural History - Summer Programs
www.cmnh.org

Fly Fishing "First Cast"
Grades 5-8
9 AM to 4 PM
July 9—July 12, 2013

Future Scientists | Glacial Geology
Grades 9-12
9 AM to 4 PM
June 24 - June 28, 2013

Student Naturalists I | Summer Session
Grades 5-6
9 AM to 4 PM
June 18 - June 21, 2013

Student Naturalists II | Summer Session
Grades 7-8
9 AM to 4 PM
July 23—July 26, 2013

Future Scientists | Summer Camping Trip
Grades 9-12
August 3 - August 12, 2013



GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Nathan Martineau
May Martineau
Elijah Martineau
Ethan Rising
Tyler Ficker
Cassidy Ficker
Mackenzie Smitley
Emily Teel
Alex Murray
Ryan Steiner
Brian Herriott

GOLDEN-WINGS Editor:
Kate Zimmerman

The *GOLDEN-WINGS* editors are happy to receive for newsletter consideration your:

- Trip Reports
- Species Profiles
- Creative Stories
- Book Reviews
- Sketches & Photos

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is July 14, 2013

Email:
info@ohioyoungbirders.org

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13551 W. State Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

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Cover Photo:
BRAND New OYBC Website
Home Page

YOUNG BIRDER PROFILE: TYLER FICKER, AGE 15

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

Tyler Ficker (TF) - My 4th grade teacher, Mrs. McGill, and her husband, Mr. Bill, got me interested in birding. We started a Miami Valley Christian Academy Bird Club that year, in 2008.

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

TF - Mr. Bill McGill has been my birding mentor for the past 5 years. I also look up to Dr. Dave Russell and his extensive knowledge. Mr. Bill Creasey and Mr. Lester Peyton have amazing knowledge that they have shared with me also.

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

TF - My favorite bird is the Canada Warbler because of their beauty. Not only do I get to see this bird at Magee Marsh, but I also get to see it in Belize each year on my mission trip.

GW – Where is your favorite place to bird?

TF - In Ohio, my favorite place to birdwatch is Magee Marsh during the Biggest Week. My other favorite is Estes Park, Colorado.

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

TF - I really want to see the White-tailed Ptarmigan. I have searched the Rockies for this bird for 4 years now.

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

TF - Being the first to find the Eurasian Wigeon at Fernald in 2012 is my greatest accomplishment in birding so far.

GW – Do you have any other interests/hobbies?

TF - I also love photography. It goes great with birdwatching!

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

TF - Fortunately, my entire family likes to birdwatch. I have also gotten some friends interested. My friends who do not birdwatch know that if they can't contact me, I'm probably hiking around looking for birds.

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

TF - I have taken birding trips to Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Alabama, and Canada. I have also birded in Belize.

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

TF - If I could go anyplace in the world to see a bird, I would go to Southern Belize looking for the Scarlet Macaw and the Harpy Eagle.

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

TF - I attended the OYBC Conference in Columbus last year.

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

TF - I belong to the Miami Valley Christian Academy Bird Club, American Birding Association, Audubon Society, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Cincinnati Nature Center, and I am working on my Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts.

GW - Where do you go to school?

TF - I am a Freshman at Miami Valley Christian Academy (MVCA).

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

TF - My dream is to go to Cornell University.

GW - What is your dream job?

TF - My dream job would be something to do with studying bird migration.

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

TF - The Big Year is my favorite movie. I liked trying to identify all the bird songs in the movie. I would love to do a Big Year myself.

GW - What are your favorite web sites?

TF - My favorite websites include eBird and cincinnatibirds.com.

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

TF - We have three cats in our family. My cat's name is Cuddles.

GW - Are you involved with any birding projects?

TF - I just finished working on my Eagle Project for Boy Scouts. It included enhancing a bird blind and garden area at MVCA. I installed a gutter on the blind to collect rain in a barrel, put up split-rail fences around the Ohio-native garden, laid stone pavers through the garden, and built and installed several nesting boxes and feeders in the nearby woods.

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

TF - My life list as of today is 391 birds! (Belize helped a lot.)

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

TF - Joining OYBC has changed birding for the better. I have met many great birders during field trips.



Photo of Tyler Ficker.

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

THE BLACK-CAPPED VIREOS AT FORT SILL BY RYAN STEINER

Ryan was a member of the OYBC several years ago. After graduating college in the spring of 2012 and many exciting seasonal wildlife jobs later, including working with Scott Weidensaul doing Northern Saw-whet Owl research, Ryan is BSBO's spring Education & Research Intern. Ryan brings a great deal of experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm to BSBO and the OYBC!

Growing up as a birder, I knew for a long time that I wanted to work with birds. There are more ways to do this than the average person would think, but after thoroughly enjoying a few biology classes in high school, I decided biology, focusing on birds of course, was the route I was going to take. As I started college I began looking for seasonal summer jobs in my field to make sure I had made the right choice; something I would strongly encourage anyone interested in working in this field to do! The job that really solidified this decision for me was working with Black-capped Vireos at Fort Sill, a military base in southwest Oklahoma.

During my first summer in southwest Oklahoma I worked with another great Ohio young birder, Brad Wilkinson, and this was one of the best summers of my life. From the start I had been very excited about the position. It is hard not to be excited about working with an endangered species in a place that was home to a lot of birds that I had never seen before! My drive to Fort Sill was filled with high hopes for the summer, but in the end the experience was much more incredible and rewarding than I could have ever imagined!

Fort Sill is located within the Wichita Mountains. This odd "bite-size" mountain range rises up out of the flat grassy plains of Oklahoma, and the boulders and scrub-oak runs that dot its slopes are as beautiful as they are rugged. Black-capped Vireos live on the rocky slopes and ravines of Fort Sill but they certainly aren't the only birds present. The short, scrubby trees are home to Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and the beautiful Painted Buntings, while the rocks provide perches for Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Rock Wrens to sing from. Rising up from the plains below, the staccato song of the Dickcissel competes for your attention along with the Canyon Wren's melodic song, rolling down from the rocky slopes above.

Even with all these distractions it was surprisingly easy to keep your attention on the task at hand, for the Black-capped Vireo was the greatest star of all! With a bigger personality than any other bird I have worked with, I could fill this newsletter, if not several books, with stories about the lives of the vireos I worked with. Instead I will leave space for other writers in this newsletter and tell

you about my fondest memory from my time at Fort Sill.

Our main task working with the vireos was to find their nests, but perhaps just as important was

keeping an eye on each nest to see if it successfully produced fledglings. I arrived at a nest I had been watching for a while and found it empty. The nestlings had seemed nearly ready to fledge on my previous check and I assumed it probably had, but I needed to find the fledglings to be sure. After a half an hour of searching without finding them I began to worry. Perhaps the nest had been found by a predator after all.

I decided to sit down in a thin run of scrubby pin oaks and wait, knowing if the birds were around they would likely move through the run at some point. I didn't have to wait long. The harsh scolding of the adults as they came upon me told me of their presence and turning around I could see all four little fledglings behind them.

The adult vireos attempted to lead their young around me, but the recently fledged birds were not interested. Extremely curious about this odd creature they had found in their run of oaks, they kept trying to get close to see what I actually was. As hard as they tried, the two adult birds could not get their little band of fledglings to stay away from me so finally they relented, and let the fledglings gawk at me, but on their own terms. Rounding up the family the male bird brought them in towards me all together and let them sit on a few twigs close enough to observe me, but not too close. Before too long

the fledgling birds decided I was not nearly as interesting as they had originally thought and let their parents lead them down the oak run and away from me, much to the relief of the adult vireos! I can't say the experience made us friends, as the young birds took after their parents and scolded me the next time I was in the territory, but I can say it is an experience that will stick

with me for the rest of my life!

I am proud to say that the Black-capped Vireo is a success story. Their numbers are increasing and these magnificent birds are coming back from the verge of extinction! This would have never been possible without the hard work of a lot of people that went out to find the problem causing their decline and then worked out a way to fix it. Birds need people who want to protect them and are willing to put in some hard work to make sure it happens. Birds need people like you! Whether you are considering a career working with birds or not, I strongly encourage you to get involved with bird conservation. While it may be difficult (but not impossible) to find a paying job until you graduate from high school there are a lot of volunteer opportunities locally and further afield to help out on wildlife conservation projects. For me this work has been some of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and more importantly it has helped the birds! So get out, get involved, and make a difference for the birds!



Above: Black-capped Vireo nest; Middle: Female Black-capped Vireo on nest. Far Right: Adult male Black-capped Vireo.





About a year ago Dr. Dave and Jill Russell gave me a great gift: a copy of Thayer Birding software for Mac. But my parents were concerned about how much space it would take up on our computer, and we never got around to installing it. Then about a month ago I found myself eating a bowl of Dr.

Dave's amazing chili at his kitchen table as he excitedly helped us brainstorm possible ways for three boys to attempt a Big Year sometime in the future. Dr. Dave gave us a homework assignment: get Thayer Birding software and get moving on bird ID's. He suggested Thayer because you can start with photos of birds and their calls and work your way to the point where you can take the quizzes by bird calls only. He said when we could do a regional quiz well by ear then we would be in good shape to visit that region for some serious birding. Dr. Dave reminded us that so often we hear birds before we see them, and if we're heading to a new place for the purpose of getting a lot of species, then a well trained ear is REALLY important. So... I asked my parents again to get the Thayer birding software up and running!

It was looking like it wasn't going to work out- we just didn't have space for the program- but then we thought of our "TV". If you know the Rising family very well, then you know that we've been a NO TV family since 2006. That's since I was four years old. (Coincidence that this is the year I became interested in birds?) The "TV" I'm talking about is really a pretty old eMac, but we keep it around for family movie nights because it actually has a decent sound system. Well... my dad got it loaded. He was very surprised! He said that if our Mac had been one generation older the software wouldn't have worked!!

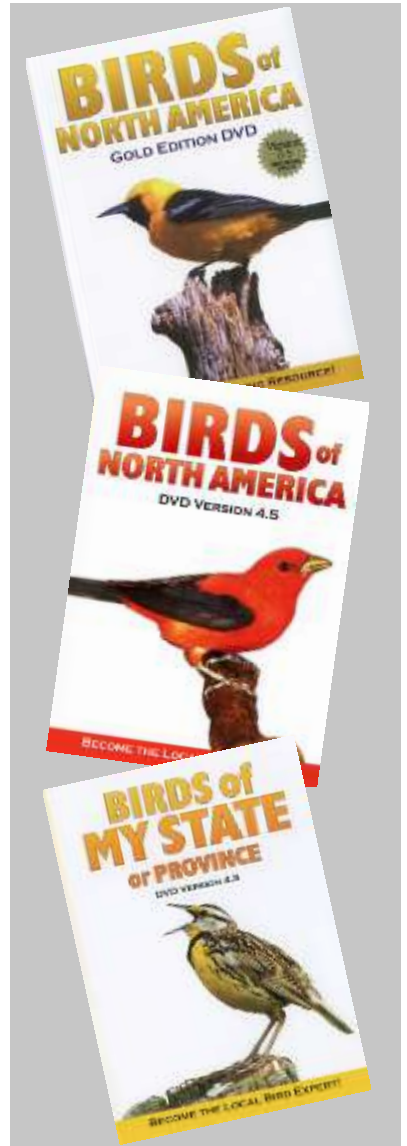
I'm glad it did work. The Thayer Birding software is the bird game to get! It has an extraordinary guide to all the birds ever seen in America. That includes one-timers like a Crane Hawk seen at Santa Ana NWR in 1987. I had never even heard that Crane Hawks even existed, but Thayer gave me a great analysis of this bird.



My favorite part of Thayer, though, are the awesome quizzes it has. You can choose places from Attu, Alaska to the Everglades in Florida. The quizzes can also be chosen from Christmas Bird Counts, from anywhere they happened. Another way to test your knowledge is to choose one of their quizzes such as 'Empidonax On the Max', 'Little Brown Jobs', or 'Plovers & Phalaropes & Peeps, Oh My!'. There are difficulty levels of Medium, Hard, and Easy. You can turn the sound on or off. And as Dr. Dave told us, you can also turn the pictures off completely and take the quizzes just by sound!

You can log your sightings, make custom lists, compare birds (I like this one...), view similar birds, and view birds related to each other with the guide. I use it every day now!

By the way, if you don't keep old eMacs around for your family movie nights, don't worry! Thayer apparently works even if you have the latest equipment. And it isn't just for Macs. If you are a PC family there is a version for you too!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB MEMBER NATHAN MARTINEAU!

Nathan was presented with the prestigious Carl G. Fenner Outstanding Volunteer Award at the annual volunteer luncheon at the Fenner Nature Center! Great work, Nathan!



Excerpt from the Fenner Nature Center & Fenner Conservancy:

"... In addition to the customary annual awards, a new award was introduced at the luncheon. The "Carl G. Fenner Outstanding Volunteer" award will be presented periodically to a volunteer that stands out from the crowd and demonstrates an extremely high level of passion, dedication, and commitment to Fenner.

The inaugural recipient was Nathan Martineau, a 16-year-old resident of Lansing, MI. Last December Nathan decided that he wanted to compete in the American Birding Association's Young Birder of the Year Award and chose Fenner Nature Center as the location for his research. During the months of his project Nathan went above and beyond by contributing many hours to helping with various activities at Fenner, including working with our summer camp participants and helping at special events..."

OWL THRILLS BY MACKENZIE SMITLEY , AGE 16



Northern Saw-whet Owl

Owling started out as a very small project -- only about nine people on average attended the event. Kelly Williams-Sieg was the beginning of the Northern Saw-whet Owl Project in Ross County. She had been reading a bird book and came across the migration patterns of the Saw-whet Owl. She realized that the books had to have been wrong, since the owls appeared to not cross through Ohio on their migration journey. Of course, Kelly knew this was wrong because she had distinctly heard their call and knew they would have to cross through Ohio or add miles to their trip, which was a little inconvenient. She decided to do a study with a couple other bird banders, Bill Bosstic and Bob Placier. Together they set up mist nets in hopes they would catch an owl by using the nets and the Saw-whet Owl's mating call. They managed to catch one on the second day and recorded their data: the length of the wingspan, the weight, age, tail length, and amount of body fat. They placed the little metal band on its leg and released it.

Years later, they've caught hundreds of Saw-whet Owls, with some recaptures from other banding stations. The project has grown and

more groups have ventured out into the cold night with the hopes of capturing and holding these adorable and docile owls. Such was the case on November 10, 2012, when the OYBC members came. Approximately twenty people traveled to Buzzards Roost Nature Preserve with the hopes of interacting with a Saw-whet. Some people traveled all the way from Mansfield to see these little creatures. We were lucky enough to catch one owl that night, despite the unusually warm conditions (which were not good for migration) and hearing a Barred Owl in the distance.

Kelly recorded data such as wing chord, fat content, and tail length and determined the little owl was a male. Using black light allowed us to see the bright fuchsia coloring of his wings. Newer feathers have a pigment called porphyrins, which illuminate under a black light. This male happened to be around 30 months old. As soon as everyone saw this little owl, they were hooked and waiting anxiously to hold him. Everyone had an opportunity to hold this



Taking measurements & recording data for Northern Saw-whet Owl research.



Examining the wing structure and feather pigmentation on a Northern Saw-whet Owl using black light.

photogenic owl and get pictures for their memory books. The trip was a huge success and hopefully more people will take the time and come see these owls in the future.

OYBC STUDENT PHOTOS



Evening Grosbeak. Photo by Tyler Ficker.

OYBC STUDENT PHOTOS



This is one of two Red-shouldered Hawks seen in the Eastgate area. Judging by the size difference, one was a male and the other a female. Photo by Cassidy Ficker.

CHECK OUT NATHAN MARTINEAU'S NEW BLOG: THE CROW'S ROOST



TOWNSEND'S SOLITAI RE--THREE MILES FROM MY HOUSE!

Today (January 16) my mom and I went to the nature center near my home, Fenner Nature Center (my favorite birding spot in the whole wide world!), to see a staked-out Townsend's Solitaire. It didn't take long to find it; no more than 5 or 6 minutes after we got there, I spotted it in a buckthorn near the field pond. I was thrilled to be seeing a rare bird at my favorite birding spot, and perhaps even more thrilled about the publicity Fenner was getting in the birding world because of that very bird. It was teed up perfectly and not at all shy, letting me get within 10 feet of it to take some photographs.

It was so cute! About the size of a bluebird, its pale eye ring, long tail, and habit of constantly fluttering its wings were all so endearing.

It was also really cool to watch the bird's behavior. I thought that the behavior of hovering was restricted to hummingbirds, kingfishers, kestrels, and a few other select raptors. No, it turns out, thrushes can hover too. Every time the solitaire felt like having a berry, it would take off from its perch and hover in place under a branch laden with berries, grabbing on to a berry with its bill and twisting its head in order to get the berry loose.

Photos by Nathan Martineau. From top to bottom: Take note of pale eye ring on Townsend's Solitaire; showing wing markings by hovering in place; all black tail with white outer tail feathers.

BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING



Experience the
Warbler Capital of the World
May 3-12, 2013

*YOUNG BIRDERS FIELD TRIP
SPONSORED BY CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY*

*International Migratory Bird Day,
May 11, 2013, 9 AM—12 Noon*

Meet in the parking lot at the east end of the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area Boardwalk

*Join us for this special field trip with Kenn Kaufman,
and Chris Wood & Jessie Barry from Cornell Lab.
This trip is free and open to birders ages 12-20.*

*For more information about the activities during the
Biggest Week in American Birding, check out the website:*

www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

In the summer of 2012, we were camping in the Porcupine Mountains in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Campsite 7, right by Lake Superior. Our campsite was mostly surrounded by goldenrod, and also there were thick shrubs with paths through them on one side.

In the evening, there were horrible stable flies that landed on our food and us. There was no end to the biting and irritating those flies inflicted on us! Some of my family decided to go and eat on the large rocks near the water, when Sariah, my sister, came down to the beach she found a small yellow and black bug, eating a large butterfly. She came down and asked Nathan what the butterfly was, and he told her that it was a Silver Spotted Skipper. She told us about the little bug that she found eating the butterfly and didn't know what it was or really what it looked like, all of us suggested that it was a bee. Sariah insisted over and over that it wasn't but she didn't know what it was so we all just believed that it was a bee anyway. We had seen a bald-faced hornet catch a stable fly and rip its wings right off. We figured those hornets would be capable of catching a butterfly.

The next day we decided to do the Escarpment Trail that we had tried to do the year before and had not managed to make it to the end. There were two highlights of that hike. The first was the green fly that landed on my mom and was licking the salt from her skin. The second highlight happened when I was walking through a young oak forest and didn't know it at the time, but I picked up a walking stick. When I realized that it was on me, I was surprised because I had always imagined an insect like a walking stick living in tropical areas!

Later that day, I was checking out the goldenrod and found a butterfly which later turned out to be a Leonard's Skipper, I tried to catch it, which proved easy because it was dead. Underneath the skipper I found a bug that exactly matched Sariah's



Green Fly licking the salt from my mom's arm.
Photo by Nathan Martineau

description of the bug eating the butterfly the night before! I caught him and showed him to Sariah asking if this could have been the bug that had caught the Silver Spotted Skipper yesterday. She said that it was and I ran to show the rest of my family, it was bright yellow and black and looked like some prehistoric animal. When I picked him up he nodded his head up and down. He looked like a cross between a robot and a dinosaur.

The next day, I found another male and I picked him up to find that he was mating with a female who was much larger. She was also a much more dull dead goldenrod kind of yellow. I set them back down so as not to disturb them (picture by Nathan). I came back later to find a different male on top of her and the one from before underneath her with his head ripped off. From then until we got



Male and female Ambush bugs on Goldenrod.
Photo by Nathan Martineau.

home, we assumed that they were some kind of mantis.

At the Big Sit, I told the story of this bug to Kate. She remembered my story and looked it up and suggested to me that it might be some kind of mantid instead of mantis. We searched online for pictures of mantids and couldn't find our bug. Finally, we located an image that looked just like our bug. What we found was that the bug is a type of Ambush Bug. It seems an appropriate name considering its looks and amazing prowess at catching and devouring large bugs.

Keep your eyes open in the summertime. Ambush Bugs can be found on many different kinds of flowers!



Walking Stick that hitched a ride on me during a morning hike. Photo by Nathan Martineau.



Northern Saw-whet Owl
by Mackenzie Smitley

Cape May Warbler
by Elijah Martineau



Kirtland's Warbler
by Elijah Martineau



Osprey with Fish
by Emily Teel



Fox Sparrow
by Elijah Martineau

On the morning of September 8, 2012 field trip leaders, Bill Creasey, Lester Holt, and **Brian Herriott, led the OYBC's Southwest Chapter's FIRST bird walk!**

Six new members of the newly-formed Southwest chapter of OYBC enjoyed the beautiful weather at Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC) this morning. The night before brought northwest winds and rain throughout most of the night and early morning. After a meeting with parents and all of our new members discussing plans for our exciting new club, we headed outside for some birding in hopes that the cold front had brought in some migrant birds.

We were not disappointed and almost immediately found a mixed flock of warblers as soon as we walked out the front doors of the nature center.

Included in this small group of birds was Blackburnian Warbler, American Redstart, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler. We also had a Chimney Swift chattering overhead and a juvenile Chipping Sparrow acting like a flycatcher as it sally-gleaned for insects.

A short walk along the forest's edge rewarded us with good looks at a singing Yellow-throated Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, and a gorgeous Scarlet Tanager. The vireo was very curious about the Eastern Screech Owl call that Mr. Creasey was doing and came quite close indeed!

One bird that we saw remained unidentified, although was possibly a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. We noticed the bird kept flicking **it's** wings upon landing and had a distinct yellow wash on its breast.

While passing near the playscape, we briefly saw a Wilson's Warbler among a group of Indigo Buntings. Also nearby was Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Towhee, and flyover Cedar Waxwings and Turkey Vultures. A Field Sparrow sat up nicely for all to see and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was busily feeding along the trailside.

Near the Meadow Shelter, Mr. Creasey was successful in getting a Barred Owl to respond to his excellent owl call. Although we never saw the owl, all of the young birders were very excited to hear it calling back at us. We also had a Gray Catbird meowing at us and a very active Eastern Wood-Pewee.

Before the day ended we had a couple more mixed flocks of birds and were able to add Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Parula as well as some of the other common resident birds at CNC.

A very productive and beautiful day! It was a truly excellent start for our new club. Many thanks to Bill McGill for helping out. Also thanks to those parents for bringing their young birders out to CNC on our inaugural birding trip. We hope to see you all again on October 13th for our next trip.



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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
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- _____ \$500 – RED-TAILED HAWK LEVEL
- _____ \$100 – AMERICAN KESTREL LEVEL

visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org for a sponsorship form
or contact BSBO at 419-898-4070

On Saturday, February 9, 2013 members of the Ohio Young Birders Club were lucky enough to attend a field trip to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area—and a very productive day it was. It started with the first of many Northern Harriers. One field over was the first and only waterfowl (besides Canada Goose) that we would see that day: a Trumpeter Swan in a cornfield, whose wing appeared to be injured. After that, the pace started to pick up. We quickly saw two American Kestrels, one female and one male, being mobbed by a flicker. There seemed to be a harrier in every field and a Red-tailed Hawk perching on the edge of every opening. Dozens of harriers and red-tails later, we arrived at the famed Owl Woods.

We quickly found a Barn Owl up high in a pine tree with the help of some birders that were already there. We had to crane our necks almost straight upwards, but it was worth it—it was looking right back down at us. We also were able to see a Northern Saw-whet Owl thanks to some friendly birders that were already present. It was about two thirds up the trunk of a pine tree and was bigger than many had imagined.

Next, we went on a successful hunt for a Northern Shrike. The shrike was very active, flying around from bush to bush, coming in close a couple of times. The hawthorns it perched on had some mean-looking thorns.



The OYBC gang at Killdeer Plains

Species List Compiled by Alex Murray

- Trumpeter Swan (1)
- Red-tailed Hawk (20)
- American Kestrel (8)
- Northern Harrier (Between 20 and 25)
- Northern Flicker (2)
- Rock Pigeon (5)
- Blue Jay (5)
- American Crow (10)
- Northern Cardinal (3)
- American Tree Sparrow (25)
- Pileated Woodpecker (1)
- Downy Woodpecker (1)
- Canada Goose (250)
- Bald Eagle (3)
- Long-eared Owl (5)
- Northern Shrike (1)
- White-breasted Nuthatch (1)
- Mourning Dove (3)
- Barn Owl (1)
- Horned Lark (15)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (1)
- Hairy Woodpecker (1)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker (1)
- House Sparrow (6)
- American Robin (35)
- Rough-legged Hawk (1)
- White-crowned Sparrow (1)
- Short-eared Owl (2)
- Tufted Titmouse (2)
- Dark-eyed Junco (26)
- Northern Mockingbird (1)
- Red-headed Woodpecker (1)
- Eastern Meadowlark (2)
- Eastern Towhee (1)
- European Starlings (close to 100)



Chloe wants to know, "Snowball fight anyone?"

As the sun was setting, many of us stayed to look for the day's last target species: Short-eared Owl. Along the way we came upon a flock of robins containing a mockingbird, a flock of tree sparrows containing a White-crowned Sparrow, and a Rough-legged Hawk. When we did arrive, we found at least seven Short-eared Owls flying around and perched on dead trees.

We finished the day with 10 birds of prey: Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Northern Saw-whet, Barn, Long-eared and Short-eared Owls, and Northern Shrike (actually a passerine, or perching bird, but certainly a bird of prey).



Long-eared Owl at Killdeer Plains



Clare, Sarah, Tyler, and Richard take turns using the scope to look at two adult Bald Eagles and their nest.

SPECIES PROFILE: PINE GROSBEEK BY ELIJAH MARTINEAU, AGE 11



Above:
Female Pine Grosbeak

Right:
Male Pine Grosbeak



I live in Lansing, MI and I was lucky enough to go up to Whitefish Point, MI over Thanksgiving weekend. I was able to see some great birds including Common Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, a Hoary Redpoll, and eleven Bohemian Waxwings.

The most interesting bird of the day, for me, was the Pine Grosbeak. They are large (wingspan, 14.5 inches; length, 9 inches) boreal finches that are uncommon, but widespread in spruce and fir tree forests of the north and in high mountains.

Pine Grosbeaks breed from late May to late July in coniferous forests in the northern parts of the Canadian provinces and in the Rocky Mountain range. They also breed in Asia. They nest on horizontal branches or forks in conifer trees usually between 5-15 feet above the ground. Their nests are bulky, open cups made with twigs, grasses, roots and moss. Eggs are blue-green with spots of brown, black and purple.

The Pine Grosbeak's diet consists of over 99% fruits and nuts and seeds make up less than 1% protein. The reason for the protein is that they only eat protein while they molt.

Pine Grosbeaks often don't migrate. They are permanent in many areas and only migrate south if food supplies are low in the northern part of Canada's provinces and in Alaska where they live. In John J. Audubon's time, Pine Grosbeaks were more widespread and were uncommon

throughout Michigan. Pine Grosbeak fossils have been found in caves in Virginia!

The Pine Grosbeak's call is a sequence of warbling, flute-like notes. They also copy other bird's songs. Their flight calls sound like "Tee-tee-taw."

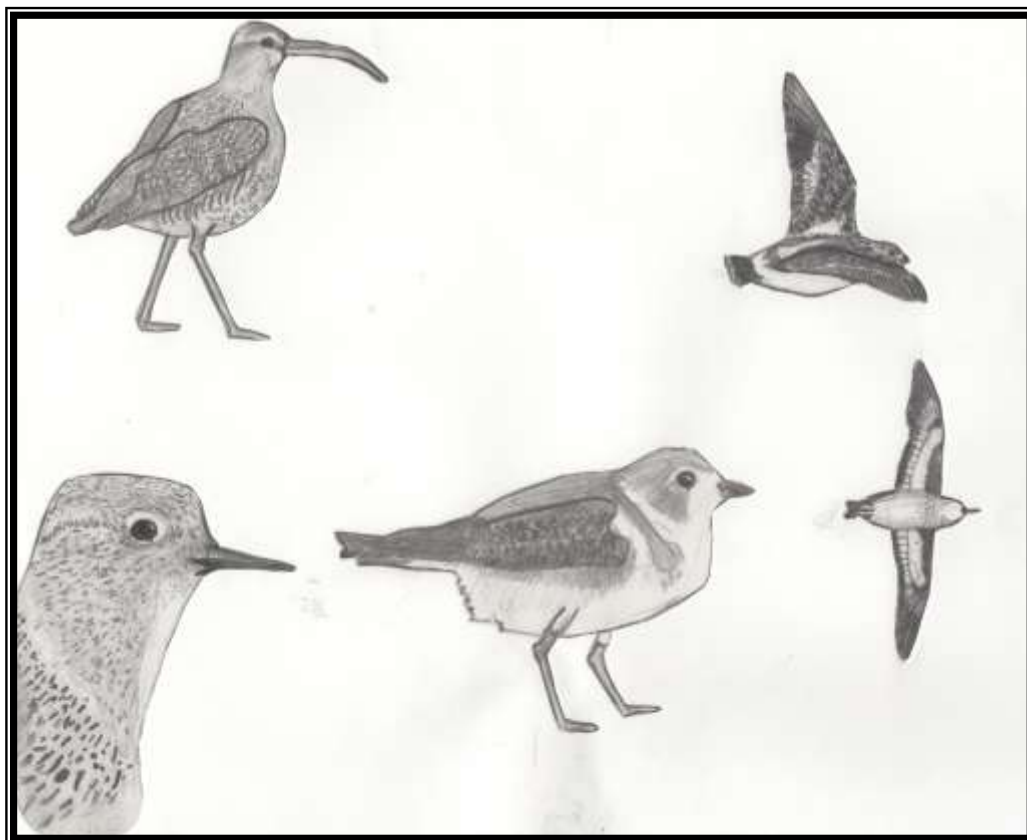
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OYBC STUDENT ARTWORK



Shorebirds at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory
by Nathan Martineau



THANK YOU,
OOS!

OOS has sponsored the OYBC at the Red-tailed Hawk level for 2013

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

*Additional field trip information at www.ohioyoungbirders.org.
To register for any of these events, or for more information, please
contact the BSBO at 419-898-4070.*

OYBC Central Chapter
Birding at Dawes Arboretum & Service Project
Saturday, April 6th
Time: 8:45 AM – 3:00 PM
Location: Dawes Arboretum in Newark, OH

Please bring your camera, lunch, snacks and drinks and plan on wearing layers and sturdy boots because it just might be muddy. We will meet up at the Tim Horton's at I-70 and Brice Rd, 2445 Brice Rd, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 at 8:45 a.m. and caravan from there to The Dawes Arboretum.

At 9:30 a.m. we will begin with bird watching at the arboretum, led by members of the Licking County Birding FAN Club. After a morning in the field, we'll eat our sack lunches around noon at the main nature center. At 1:00 PM we will head over to the Red Barn area to install 16 Tree Swallow nest boxes, similar to what we did at Glacier Ridge last year. We will also present a gift of an osprey platform to The Dawes Arboretum for future installation. We will finish by 3:00 p.m. and return to Columbus by 4:00- 4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Darlene at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com. To register for this event and/or to request a ride, please contact Gerry at jbrevoor@columbus.rr.com by April 4th.

OYBC Southwest Chapter Monthly Meeting
Saturday, April 13th
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Location: Cincinnati Nature Center
(4949 Tealtown Rd, Milford, OH 45150)

OYBC Southwest Chapter monthly meeting will be at Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods. Youth participants meet in the lobby at 9 AM before heading out on the trails. Parents free to pursue other activities until pickup time at 12 noon.

Today we will look for early neotropical migrants, such as Louisiana Waterthrush and Yellow-throated Warbler, which nest along Avey's Run. Please dress to be outdoors for up to three hours.

Do YOU have an great idea for an OYBC field trip? **If so, we'd love to hear about it!**

Contact Kate Zimmerman -
katezimmerman@bsbo.org
or call BSBO at (419) 898-4070

to share your ideas for field trips, content for the newsletter, or any other thoughts, concerns, or great ideas you have for the OYBC.

Thanks!

Oxbow Bird-A-Thon Fundraiser
Friday, May 10th – Saturday, May 11th
4:00 PM Friday – 7:00 PM Saturday
Location: Cincinnati Nature Center

This year we will form a new team for Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC)! We will meet at CNC's Rowe Woods on Friday, May 10th at 4:30 PM until 10:00 PM. On Saturday, May 11th, we will meet at 6:00 AM in the Rowe Woods parking lot and bird all day until we return at 7:00 PM.

This event costs \$10 per person which includes pizza and beverages at the Birdathon Tally and Party on Saturday at 5 PM. Please bring brown bag dinner and beverage for Friday as well as a brown bag lunch and beverage for Saturday. Drop off and pick-up will be located at Rowe Woods parking lot. Please dress for the weather.

Statewide OYBC: International Migratory Bird Day
Saturday, May 11th
9:00 AM—12:00 NOON
Meeting Location: At the EAST end of the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (W/A) Boardwalk

We'll celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by birding along the southwest Lake Erie shore at Magee Marsh W/A, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Metzger Marsh W/A. Join us for this special birding field trip with Kenn Kaufman, Chris Wood, and Jessie Barry, for birders ages 12-20. Target species will be Warblers, other neotropical songbirds, and shorebirds.

For more information about the activities during the Biggest Week in American Birding, check out the website: www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

OYBC Central Chapter: Birding by Kayak
Saturday, June 8th
8:30 AM-2:00 PM
Location: Powell, OH

Come paddle and bird at Twin Lakes in Powell, OH! The group will receive instruction before launching to paddle for 2-2 1/2 hours. Activities include checking Prothonotary Warblers nest boxes. Those with time should pack a lunch and sturdy walking shoes for a picnic and join us for an afternoon of checking nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and Purple Martins.

Cost: \$20 per student. Please bring cash or check payable to the event.

Carpooling from northwest Ohio is usually an option. Contact BSBO if interested and for details on what time the BSBO Bird Bus leaves for each field trip.

THE OYBC SHOUT OUT PAGE

WELCOME TO ALL OF THE NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS

STUDENT MEMBERS

Catie Strable
Emma Weatherston
Danielle Ashakih
Nathan Holewinski
Izabella Little
Joey Tomei
Jack Roy
Ella Bersagel
Jacob Reese
Ben Meade
Lily Parker-McLaughlin
Jamie Leonard
Marissa Martinez
Jack McSwiggin
Steven Lunn
Jacob Parry

ADULT SUPPORTERS

Brian Herriott
Marilyn Shade
Lester Peyton
Shannon Bersagel
Eric Bersagel
Frank Knapke
Colleen McSwiggin

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

Is your membership current?
Many Ohio Young Birders Club
Memberships are up for
renewal for 2013.

Please check the last page to see if you're a current member

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- 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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___ \$ 10 - Student
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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