



Ohio Young Birders Club

VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 3 FALL 2011

Registration Form
Included in this Issue!

*Ohio Young Birders Conference
November 5, 2011*
Grange Insurance Audubon Center
Columbus, Ohio



The Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) documents endangered species during Port Clinton BioBlitz.
See Page 6 for more photos of the event.

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Special Announcements

Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC)

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

Coordinators

Gerry Brevoort
Tim Daniel
Ken Keffer
John Sawvel
Susan Setterlin
Darlene Sillick

Youth Advisory Panel

Clare Jusdanis
Wyatt Miller
Dakota Outcalt
Lukas Padegimas
Jacob Stinnett
Doug Whitman
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.

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

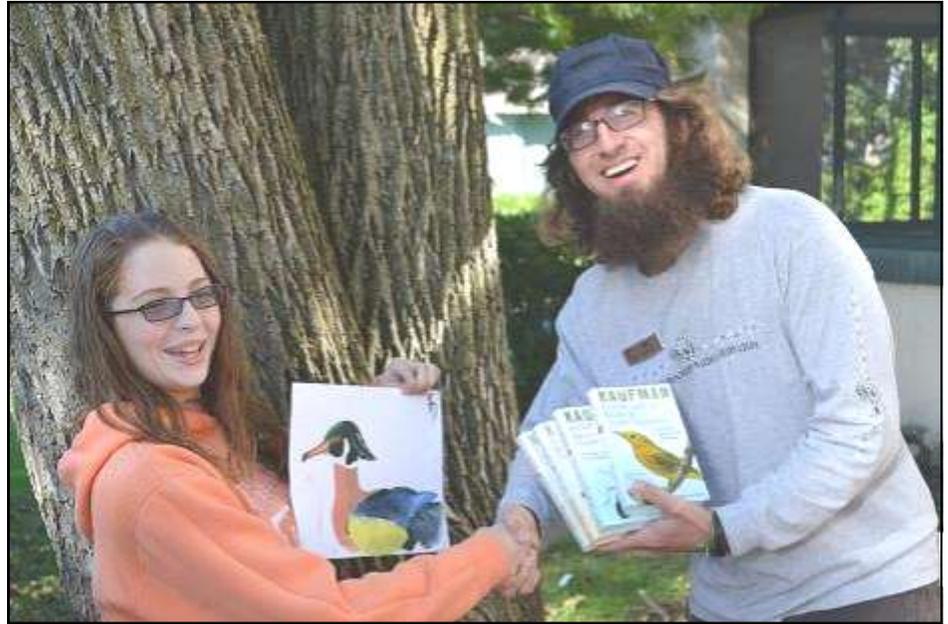
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The Black Swamp Bird Observatory and the Ohio Young Birders Club hosted **Kid's Day at the recent Midwest Birding Symposium**. Kelley Spicer, 12, was awarded the prize during the Killdeer Korner Student Art Show. Education Director Ken Keffer congratulates Kelley with a set of field guides donated by Kaufman Field Guides.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make Killdeer Korner a success including: Delores Cole, Marya Czech, Jane Garling, Lee Garling, Eileen Jarc, Christine Lotenero, Deb Neidert, and Stacy Tornio.

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.

Special Announcements

5th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference November 5, 2011

HOSTS



505 Whittier Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

SPONSORS



The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Students Rate \$10 / Adult Rate \$20

You do not have to be a member to attend and adults are encouraged to attend too!

Registration deadline - October 22nd

Please fill out and return
the registration form included
in this issue of
GOLDEN-WINGS to reserve your
seat at another
GREAT conference!

THE OYBC CONFERENCE SHOWCASES:

**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
KENN KAUFMAN BIRD I.D. QUIZ**

FIELD TRIPS

Lunch

And MUCH MORE!

* *Optional* Field Trip and Banding Demo 8:30 a.m.

* Registration Begins Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

* Opening Remarks Begin at 10:30 a.m.

GOLDEN-WINGS

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

Gerry Brevoort
Rachael Butek
Tim Daniel
Clare Jusdanis
Kim Kaufman
Alexander Martin
Kayla & Nancy Parry
Kristina Polk
John Sawvel
Kathleen Seeley
Mark Shieldcastle
Stacy Tornio

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Ken Keffer
Kathy McDonald

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
November 1, 2011*

Email: in-
fo@ohioyoungbirders.org

Mail:

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

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Cover Photo: Kimm Kaufman

Rachael Butek is 19 years old and resides in Colfax, Wisconsin. Rachael is the 2010 American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year, and the Ohio Young Birders Club is thrilled to announce that Rachael will be the Keynote Speaker for the 5th Annual OYBC Conference. The conference will be held November 5 & 6 at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus, Ohio. Full conference details can be found throughout this newsletter as well as on the web at www.ohioyoungbirders.org.

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

RACHAEL BUTEK -- It was the birds that got me interested in them! I actually didn't know anyone at the time who was really into birds, so it was purely for the love of birds that I started birding. I got started when I decided to record the birds visiting our feeders for a few weeks; I ended up counting all winter long, and soon I was addicted! That was in 2008. Obviously, it quickly became more than a hobby!

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

RB -- When I first started, I didn't know any other birders, but my parents have always been very supportive of all my endeavors. I also learned about Margaret Morse Nice early on. She was an ornithologist who is best known for her studies on the Song Sparrows in the 1930's. She studied their breeding, territoriality, instinct and song in her own back yard in Columbus Ohio. She was very inspiring to me. Since winning the YBY contest, I've met several great local birders, many of which have helped me in one way or another.

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

RB -- Hmm... I hate picking favorites, but I think I'd have to say it's the Song Sparrow. It's one of the first birds I identified in a field guide, you can find them pretty much anywhere in the US, they're beautiful, and have a great song. They're also the primary species studied by Margaret Morse Nice, which also makes them special to me.

GW -- Where is your favorite place to bird?

RB -- My favorite place to bird would have to be somewhere on our ten acre hobby farm, or within easy biking distance, depending on the season, day, weather, and birds. Pretty much anywhere with a nice flock of migrants, or even

just one cooperative bird that will let me sit and sketch it!

GW -- What bird would you most like to see?

RB -- There are loads of birds I would like to see, but I'd really love to see a Hoatzin. They are so bizarre, and there are so many unknowns about them, they're just one of those birds I would really like to get to know.

GW -- You are the current American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year. What are some of your other birding accomplishments?



Sandhill Crane, by Rachael Butek
American Birding Association's
Young Birder of the Year

RB -- Well, having only been birding for three years, I haven't had much time for major accomplishments, but thus far this year I have: had a Brown Thrasher photo win a local calendar contest, gotten to help band birds for the local MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) station, and helped keep track of a pair of banded Whooping Cranes for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

GW -- Are you interested in any other natural science areas besides birds, and what are your other interests and hobbies?

RB -- I am very interested in anything having to do with nature and science! I'm especially interested in native plants, butterflies, and other bugs, but birds are definitely what I like best. My other hobbies include photography, Irish dance, and all things artsy.

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?

RB -- Most of the people my age that I know are either my friends, or other birders. My friends are appreciative of the fact that birding is my "hobby", and of course the birders are totally positive! So I really haven't had much opportunity to talk with anyone who isn't very positive about birding.

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

RB -- Be open and enthusiastic about your love of nature! I just had a mother tell me her son was taking pictures of a spider for me, because he knew I liked those kinds of things!

GW -- How do you think the internet can help foster a community of young birders?

RB -- While there are a lot of us young birders out there, they're mostly spread out across the country (even countries). So making use of the Internet and social networking is a great way to get to know other young birders, and learn about birding in other places. In particular, I have found Facebook, various blogs, and email can all be great ways to connect with other young birders!

GW -- What are some of the most exciting birding destinations that you've been too?

RB -- My own back yard! I have also gotten to go birding at some great national parks in Virginia, but I truly enjoy just getting to know "my birds" better.

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

RB -- Where wouldn't I go? There's lots of places I'd love to go birding; I could go to Louisiana in search of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker, to Africa to find a Secretary Bird, or New Guinea to look at Birds of Paradise. But if I had to pick just one, I think I would go to South America and chase Hoatzins because they are so unusual and fascinating.

GW -- Which birding camps, conventions, and/or conferences have you attended?

RB -- To tell the truth, I haven't yet been to any big birding events, though there are some local upcoming conferences I'd like to attend.

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

RB -- Currently, I only belong to the American Birding Association, but there are several

Young Birder Profile. . . Rachael Butek, age 19

others I'm considering joining.

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

RB -- Yes I plan on going to college, most likely next fall, but I haven't determined where yet. The University of Wisconsin - Steven's Point has been highly recommended, but I have a few other options to look at as well.

GW -- What is your dream job?

RB -- My dream job would be a field research project with lots of color banding and data collection, focusing on some sort of passerine.

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

RB -- I will always be a birder!

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

RB -- I don't think I can honestly pick a favorite, but besides all my bird guides, I really love Margaret Morse Nice's book *The Watcher at the Nest*. It's a very readable account of her studies on Song Sparrows, covering everything from the territorial skirmishes of Uno and 4M, to the raising of two cowbird chicks by Bluebell. Unfortunately, it's out of print, but I would highly recommend it to anyone who can get their hands on it!

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

RB -- Lord of the Rings - extended edition! I love how I can get so absorbed into the story that I feel like I'm right there fighting the hopeless fight and still coming out on top. (Sorry, nothing to do with birds here, I just love epic stuff!)

GW -- What's your favorite place to eat?

RB -- Right here at home! Mom is the best cook in the world!

GW -- What are your favorite web sites?

RB -- Facebook, ABA Blog, The Erie Blog (ABA Young Birders), McGill Bird Observatory, and Birds of North America Online.

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

RB -- The only pets I technically own are a pair of Cockatiels, but one of our household cats has adopted me as well. We also have several other animals including a Golden Retriever, lots of chickens, goldfish, and a gecko.

GW -- Do you volunteer anywhere?

RB -- Yes, I volunteer a lot at our parish, but nothing particularly bird related (yet!).

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

RB -- Last winter I went to a banding demonstration, and since then the local banders have taken me under their wings and started teaching me how. As for teaching anything myself, not officially, but I enjoy sharing my knowledge of birds and nature in general with younger children, especially my little sister.

GW -- Are you involved with any additional birding projects?

RB -- Earlier this year I was involved in the local MAPS banding project, and I am currently helping with banding at Beaver Creek Reserve. If any more opportunities present themselves, I will take them without hesitation!

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

RB -- Well, I do have a life list, but I'm not really the sort of birder who goes out hunting specifically for lifers. If I happen to get a new life bird though, that's great! Currently, my list is right around 150.

GW -- How has the American Birding Association's Young Birder of the Year program changed birding for you?

RB -- Tons of ways! Prior to participating, I didn't know any other birders, and what I knew about birding was largely through personal experience. By having a goal in mind and a rigorous set of rules to follow, I was able to achieve far more than I would have otherwise. It also gave me a reason to try new things; I had no clue I loved photography, or that I could paint birds in watercolor! I learned the importance of taking detailed notes, and discovered what it takes to write a good essay. Since participating, I've gotten to meet lots of great birders, and had many opportunities to continue my growth as a young birder.



Rachael Butek
Ohio Young Birders Club
Conference Keynote Speaker,
American Birding Association's
Young Birder of the Year

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

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
or contact BSBO at 419-898-4070

OYBC FINDS RARE SPECIES DURING PORT CLINTON BIOBLITZ

The Ohio Young Birders Club hosted a BioBlitz at Port Clinton's Lakefront Preserve on July 23, 2011, and the results might surprise you. Well over 200 species of living things were documented on the property which lies on the shores of Lake Erie between City Beach and Water Works Park. This area, a coastal wetland habitat, provides a home to many unique plants and animals.



Over 30 people, including student members from Michigan and Illinois, participated in the daylong BioBlitz event. A BioBlitz is an effort to identify all of the living things on a property. Participants collected species information that serves as a valuable tool for helping to maintain the habitat, and provides baseline data that will assist in evaluating the success of ongoing restoration efforts.

In addition to surveying the property for birds, insects, turtles, and snakes, the group also sampled Lake Erie for aquatic critters including fish and mussels. Assisted by University of Toledo graduate student Todd Crail, the Young Birders Club was able to document the state endangered Eastern Pond Mussel (pictured) and the Rayed Bean Mussel, a species that is currently being considered for the United States Endangered Species List.



Other species highlights from the day included Bald Eagle, Painted Turtle, and Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly. The Young Birders Club will continue to monitor the species that are using the property. The group expects to add many additional bird species during their Big Sit for Conservation Fundraiser to be held on the property in October.

The Ohio Young Birders BioBlitz was a collaborative effort between the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, the City of Port Clinton, and the Black Swamp Conservancy. The BioBlitz was also supported in part thanks to grants from the Harry Stensen Memorial Trust and the Ottawa County Community Foundation.

OYBC BIG SIT FOR CONSERVATION

The Ohio Young Birders Club is Raising Money for Habitat Restoration at the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve and WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Student members of the Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) are taking a “stand” against habitat loss with a BIG SIT fundraiser! The BIG SIT will be open to the public and will take place at the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve on Sunday, October 15th, from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Proceeds of the BIG SIT will benefit both the OYBC and the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve restoration project.

The Ohio Young Birders Club is a statewide group for young nature enthusiasts ages 12 to 18. The club is part of the education program of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, a research and education organization based in Oak Harbor.

The idea behind a BIG SIT is to stay in a 17-foot diameter circle and count all the species of birds you can identify from that spot during a continuous period. This BIG SIT goes beyond simply counting birds.

Kim Kaufman, Executive Director of Black Swamp Bird Observatory explains, “The mission of the Ohio Young Birders Club is to encourage, educate, and empower our youth conservation leaders. We provide monthly outdoor experiences that help develop a deeper awareness and appreciation of our natural world. But, we also recognize that it takes more than the ability to identify birds to be good stewards of our natural resources. We strive to give young people the tools to empower their ability to be strong conservation leaders. Financial support is critical for conservation efforts, and teaching the students about fundraising and charitable giving is an important part of their leadership development.”

The Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve is an example of the fact that the City of Port Clinton understands the value in preserving natural areas and protecting the unobstructed views of Lake Erie that have become so precious. In addition to the scenic value, it’s important to note that less than 16% of Ohio’s Lakeshore is accessible to the public, so the mile-long stretch preserved by the Lakefront Preserve adds considerably to the public’s opportunity to enjoy Lake Erie at its finest.

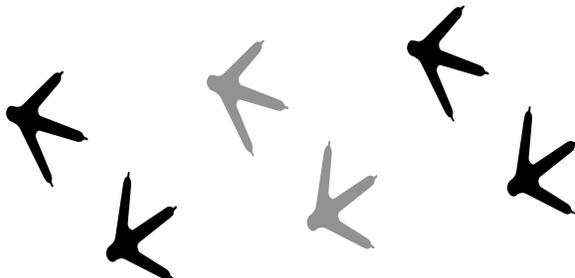
Debra Hymore-Tester, Mayor of the City of Port Clinton, Ohio, is very happy and excited to have the young birders in Port Clinton at the Lakefront Preserve. “The recent acquisition of the Preserve was an extremely important venture, providing opportunities for present and future birders and wildlife enthusiasts. The Lakefront Preserve will enhance the area for our residents and visitors and we are thrilled that these fine young people are working hard to help us complete the project.”

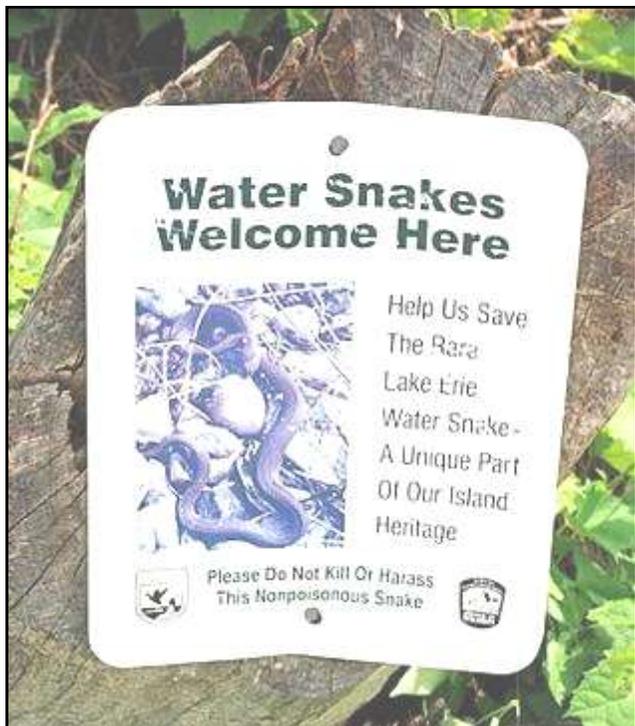
Linda Hartlaub, President of the Port Clinton City Council says, “The City has worked off-and-on for more than twenty years to obtain the property now known as the Lakeshore Preserve. Now that we have succeeded, we can boast that we have one of the longest stretches of public access shoreline on Lake Erie.”

You can help support the BIG SIT by filling out the enclosed form with your pledge or donation. In order to help you make a decision about a pledge per bird, depending on things like weather and luck, we expect a species total in the neighborhood of 30-40 species. This year we do not expect to tally nearly as many species, so we encourage you to consider a donation rather than a pledge per species. Donations can be made securely online at: www.bsbobird.org.

Thank you so much for supporting this important project and the efforts of these outstanding young people!

Kimberly Kaufman
Executive Director
Black Swamp Bird Observatory





On August 20, 2011, the Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) went outside the realm of ornithology to experience another field: herpetology.

Gathering at the Catawba Island ferry dock, the group proceeded to South Bass Island (SBI). After disembarking from the ferryboat, the band of birders, led by club advisors Ken Keffer, Gerry Brevoort, John Sawvel, Tim Daniel, Darlene Sillick, and Susan Setterlin, took the OYBC bus to SBI State Park. Once the unit had assembled at the park shelter house, Kristin Stanford (of "Dirty Jobs" television fame), the Recovery Plan Coordinator of the Lake Erie Water Snake at OSU's Stone Laboratory, presented an interactive lecture on the snakes found on the Lake Erie islands, as well as data about snakes in general. She also shared the exciting news that the Lake Erie Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon insularum*) was taken off the federal endangered species list, as she showed us native snakes, including Brown Snake, Rat Snake, Fox Snake, Blue Racer, and, of course, the Lake Erie Water Snake (LEWS).

Once Kristin laid down a few basic rules about snake catching, the troupe broke into two groups; one following her, and the other following Lisa Brohl, Chair for the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of Black Swamp Conservancy. Following the bagging of

the LEWS, the snakes were then "read" for a tag number and, if there was none, one was implanted within the snake. Measuring the length and mass of each snake followed. Upon completion, the herps were put in a closed pillowcase to await release. When all the reptiles had been released, the group went to the Scheff East Point Nature Preserve for a bird walk led by Lisa Brohl.

LEWS like to lie on, and especially under, large rocks in order to maximize their body temperatures because they are poikilotherms. Poikilothermic organisms are more traditionally known by the terms "cold-blooded" and "ectothermic", and use external heat sources (like a sunny rock) to warm themselves. The LEWS, having hybridized over the years with their close relative the Northern Water Snake, vary in coloration from the classical full-body gray (termed as "unbanded"), banded, and intermediate. For more information on LEWS go to www.respectthesnake.com.

On behalf of all the OYBC members, I'd like to thank the Island Snake Lady, Kirstin Stanford, for an awesome day spent with snakes and all her work with and on behalf of the conservation of LEWS and their habitat. Thanks also go out to Lisa Brohl, for leading a wonderful island bird walk and helping with the snakes. Lastly, thanks belong to those who make OYBC trips such as these possible: Ken, John, Gerry, Sue, Darlene, Tim, and of course the parents and others who support OYBC members.



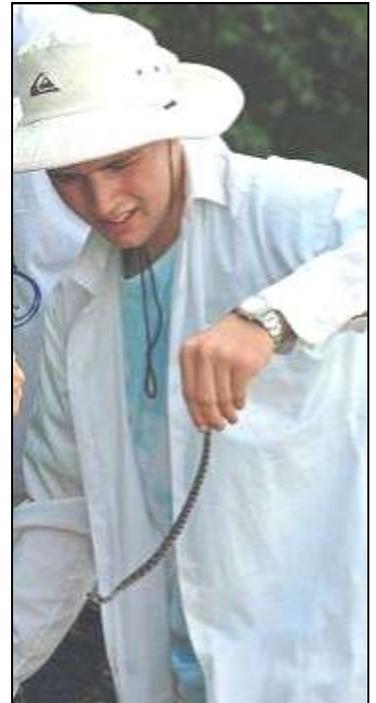
Kathleen Seeley is a senior at Benjamin Logan High School. She is also involved in the FFA, marching band, robotics, and science club. Kat plays the piano, trumpet, pipe organ, and mountain dulcimer. For the past four years, Kathleen has been researching oil-producing algae. Her collective data is to be presented at the National FFA Convention, in October, as she competes for National Agriscience Student of the Year. She first joined the OYBC in 2008 and has loved every minute of it--even the winter gull watch. Kat's favorite birds are Bufflehead and the Roseate Spoonbill.

Kathleen will be giving a presentation about the Lake Erie Water Snake at the Ohio Young Birders Conference on November 5th! For more info, visit www.ohioyoungbirders.org



We spent a day on South Bass isle
To catch some snakes and bird awhile.
On the morning ferry we set forth
And cruised toward South Bass, heading north.
Kristen Stanford, wearing green
At the park with us convened.
She showed us different water snakes,
Then we set off down to the lake.
A few brave souls caught snakes barehanded
And bagged them, both band'd and unbanded.
Yes, it's true, the snakes did bite,
But in the end, t'was worth the fight
For our job it was the snakes to study,
Though itchy, hot, wet, and bloody.
Afterwards, we took a hike
To do something that we all like:
To spot a bird, or two, or three,
To watch a warbler in a tree,
To talk with friends we'd made that day,
To spy the kingfisher in the bay.
Then at the end a special prize,
For right before our very eyes,
And clothed in iridescent cresting,
A young male purple martin fledgling.
Sitting on a low fence log
As still as any pointing dog
He stayed there for the longest time,
Without a care, reason, or rhyme.
Perched upon a tiny stalk,
He sat there while we stood and gawked.
Sadly, it was getting late.
The ferry, for us, would not wait.
So we each went on our separate way;
Goodbye, to another birding day.

Alexander Martin, age 16

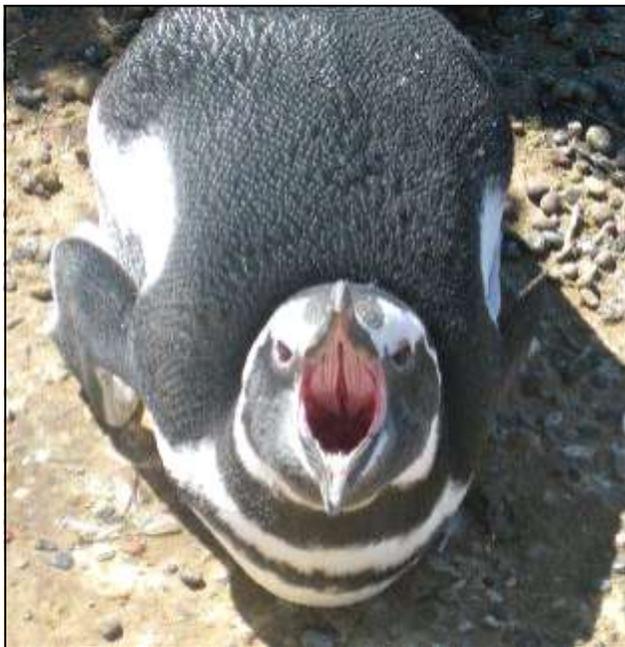


“This summer my family went to Argentina to learn Spanish. For the first week we went to Patagonia. We saw many species of birds, but my favorites were the penguins.”

Clare Jusdanis, age 12



Patagonia Mockingbird



Magellan Penguins



Ask About Becoming
An OYBC Sponsor
419-898-4070
staff@bsbo.org



Red-tailed Hawk



Osprey

Kristina Polk, age 16



Butterfly

Spruce Mountain, Stowe, Vermont
Alexander Martin, age 16



Savannah Sparrow
Kayla Parry, age 13

OYBC PARTICIPATES IN MIDWEST BIRDING SYMPOSIUM



OYBC Youth Advisory Panel Members Sarah Winnicki and Wyatt Miller presented an engaging presentation on recruiting new birders during MBS.



Young Birders proudly show off their owl puppets and homemade binoculars



Killdeer Korner Student Art Winner
Kelley Spicer, age 12



"Whooo" is hiding behind the owl mask?
Why it's Jacob Parry!

Help recruit new OYBC members by inviting friends along on the next field trip!

International Migratory Bird Day Inspirations by Kristina Polk, age 16

"Birds, quite literally, connect us all."

During spring migration I ventured to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area for International Migratory Bird Day. I watched a bird banding demonstration by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and I was able to release a Gray Catbird. When I released this beautiful little bird, it was incredible to feel the energy as it launched into the air. What power, grace, and determination is packed into their tiny bodies! And such detailed feather topography and mysterious eyes.

Birds are amazing creature and really deserve to be loved, conserved, and watched with passion!! I'm so very glad to be a birder, to be part of an everyday effort to conserve and learn about these complex animals.

I'd like to relate to you how important it is to conserve and protect birds and their habitats. We must realize that the actions we take here in America will affect countries like Venezuela and Ecuador; and what they do will affect us. Why? Birds!

Birds, quite literally, connect us all-- they spend winters in South American countries and breed in North America in the spring and summer. I think of Baltimore Orioles I've seen in my neighborhood. Just weeks before they fly around with streamers of hay, hair, and grass, building their nests in Ohio, they were in South America. By the time autumn comes, they've got to raise a family and fly *back* across the Gulf until next spring, when (if they survive) they get to do it all over again. Being a bird is hard, but I am sure they have so much joy with it. To be able to fly, to sing such beautiful songs, and to inspire so many people...what an incredible life.

Kristina Polk is 16, and is a high schooler who loves wildlife photography. She is a vegan, and she loves animals, especially orcas, deer, and birds. A fan of horse racing, Kristina is also part of the Teen Corps program at her local Metroparks. Her goal is to be a wildlife biologist studying wild birds! She loves to read, write, draw, and take photos. **Other hobbies include birdwatching, photography, creating artwork, and blogging!**

If American habitat isn't saved, then the birds in South America will have no summer home to come home to! And if South American habitat is destroyed, our migrants will have no winter vacation home! If habitat worldwide isn't protected, birds will cease to exist. Rachel Carson warned us of a "silent spring", and it is a very real possibility. Without everyone's help, passion, and dedication, our feathered friends will have no homes. With no homes, they have no where to raise their young. Without a new generation, once the current generation passes, there will be no more birds. It's a very scary and sobering thought, but it's necessary to keep it in mind as we go about our daily lives. Birds are an important part of our world and without them; life would never be the same.

So, help the birds. Help the world. Support efforts to conserve birds and their habitat! Get outside and appreciate the birds! Take photos and paint pictures of these wonderful creatures, and share their beauty with others. We have harmed their habitats, but we are the solution!

BE THE CHANGE!

If birding has taught me one thing, it is to appreciate and learn from our avian neighbors, and to share that passion with others. They are deserving of our efforts, time, and love, and we must do all we can to preserve these amazing, astounding, beautiful, inspiring, incredible, stunning, and powerful beings.



THE OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

*5th Annual Ohio Young
Birders Conference*
November 5, 2011

Hosts: Grange Insurance Audubon Center
and Columbus Audubon
505 Whittier Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

SPECIAL GUEST:

Jessie Barry,
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

*Learn about opportunities for
young birders including Cornell
camps and online workshops.*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Rachael Butek, of Colfax, WI.

Rachael is an amazing artist and
birder. She is the 2010

**American Birding Association's
Young Birder of the Year!**

*Registration and hotel
information online at
www.ohioyoungbirders.org*

*Registration Deadline:
OCTOBER 22, 2011*

*Students: \$10
Adults : \$20*

Doug Whitman, Service Learning Helps the OYBC Central Chapter Take Flight

Lukas Padegimas, An Epic Adventure in the Alaskan Arctic

Kathleen Seeley, Beyond Birds with the OYBC, The Lake Erie Water Snake

Robert Reynard, Bird Banding Past, Present, and Future

Rachael Butek, No Scope, No Car, No Problem!

Ohio Young Birders Club Upcoming Events

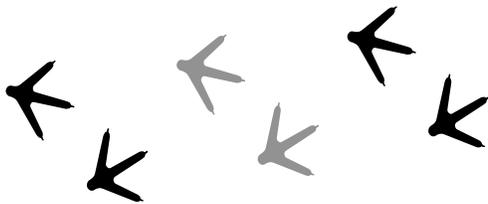
To register for any of these events, or for more information, please contact the BSBO at 419-898-4070.

Big Sit for Conservation

Saturday, October 15, 7:30 AM—4:30 PM

Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve

Help support the Ohio Young Birders Club by participating in the annual Big Sit for Conservation. Like a walkathon, people can donate to the OYBC by pledging an amount for every species seen during the event. The catch with a Big Sit is *we stay in the same place all day long*. **This year's Big Sit** will take place at the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve. Read a letter from BSBO Executive Director Kim Kaufman on page 7 about the Big Sit, and look for a pledge form in this newsletter. Donations can also be made online at www.ohioyoungbirders.org.



OYBC 5th Annual Conference

Saturday, November 5, 8:30 AM—4:00 PM

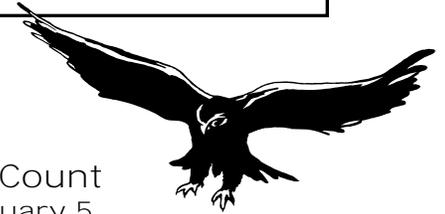
Grange Audubon Center, Columbus, OH

The annual OYBC Conference is a revolutionary event. In addition to student presentations, the event includes a field trip, door prizes, and a bird quiz led by noted author Kenn Kaufman. The OYBC conference is a great way to meet young birders from all over, and to see what unique opportunities the OYBC can provide! See pages 3 & 13 for more information, and pages 4-5 for an interview with **this year's Keynote Speaker, Rachael Butek**, American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year.

Registration deadline is October 22

\$10 / student, \$20 / adult

"The most inspiring event in conservation."

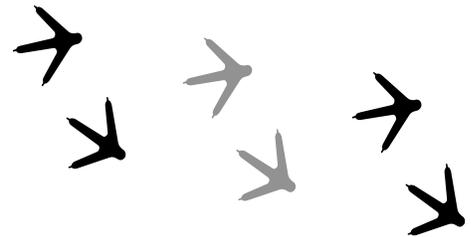


Christmas Bird Count

December 14—January 5

Many locations throughout Ohio and the US! Participating in this national count has become a tradition for OYBC students, families, birders and scientists alike. Citizen science events like this are great fun and provide valuable research data, so bundle up and get outside for the birds.

OYBC members are invited to participate in the Fremont CBC but there are other counts all around the state!



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

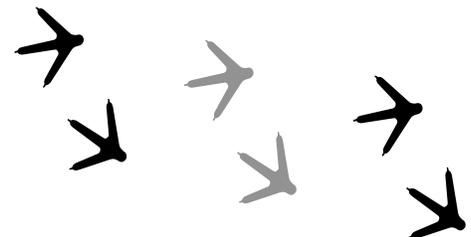
hear about it! Contact

Ken Keffer - kenkeffer@bsbo.org

John Sawvel - johnsawvel@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!



WELCOME TO ALL OF THE
NEW OYBC MEMBERS & ADULT SUPPORTERS

STUDENT MEMBERS ADULT MEMBERS

Kelley Spicer

Jenny Eldridge
Stacy Tornio

Encourage your friends and family
to become OYBC members!

Remember to
submit materials for the
next GOLDEN-WINGS
Newsletter!

FOLLOW THE OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB ON
FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



www.facebook.com/ohioyoungbirders



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!

Thank you to all of our
OYBC SPONSORS!

Black Swamp Conservancy

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OYBC Central OH Chapter
(Columbus Audubon)

Friends of Magee Marsh

Greater Mohican Audubon

Kaufman Field Guides

Kirtland Bird Club

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For more information on sponsoring
the OYBC, see Page 5 of this issue of
GOLDEN-WINGS, or call BSBO at
(419) 898-4070.



Black Swamp Bird Observatory
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Time to renew
 your membership

Ohio Young Birders Club
 New or Renewal Membership

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If Student, Date of Birth: _____

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

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

\$ _____ Membership Dues (calendar year)

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

___ \$ 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