



BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY



# BSBO NEWS

SUMMER / FALL 2015

## BSBO Visitors' Center Hours:

We are open  
Friday, Saturday &  
Sunday year 'round  
from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

April & September:  
Friday, Saturday,  
Sunday & Monday  
from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

We are open every day in  
May from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(419) 898-4070

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Members of the **BSBO** staff and board accept a certificate designating the **Western and Central Basins** as **Globally Important Bird Areas** from **Gary Langham**, Vice President and Chief Scientist with **National Audubon Society**. These designations represent **Ohio's FIRST** Globally Important Bird Areas. (Read more on page 10.)



Black Swamp Bird Observatory: inspiring the appreciation, enjoyment, and conservation of birds and their habitats through research, education, and outreach.

## Black Swamp Bird Observatory

*Teaming Research with Education  
to Promote Bird Conservation*

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Lester Peyton  
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John Blodgett



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERCH

Dear Friends,

Each fall, millions upon millions of migratory songbirds utilize the critical stopover habitat of the Lake Erie Marsh Region on the way to their southern wintering grounds. BSBO has banded more than 550,000 birds in its history, and through banding efforts like these we have learned some incredible details about their journeys. For instance...



BSBO Pen = 9.7 grams



Ruby-throated Hummingbird = 3.2 grams



That's right, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird's weight is less than half that of this ball point pen, making the next part of the story seem more like science fiction than fact. During migration these tiny birds fly 18 hours nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico. As sweet and as cute as they are, they're also incredibly tough little birds. And then there's the tale of the Blackpoll Warbler.

Each fall, newly fledged Blackpoll Warblers leave their nesting grounds in Northern Alaska and begin a 7,000-mile journey to Brazil where they will spend the winter. Embarking upon a journey that we can barely conjure up in our imagination, they migrate alone, traveling at night, and navigating by the stars. Many thousands of these Blackpolls visit the Lake Erie Marshes to rest and refuel before continuing east, leaping off from the coast and heading south over the Atlantic Ocean. Out over the open ocean, they will be on the wing for 80 hours. For three nights and four days these tiny birds will be traveling under the power of their own wings, covering thousands of miles over open water before reaching the relative safety of land. Driven by instinct and acting on faith that the habitats they need along the way will be there to ensure their success, these masters of the sky epitomize the magic and wonder of migration that captivate us all.

Our research team has the distinct honor of interacting with migratory birds in a powerful and meaningful way. At our banding stations, BSBO scientists work side-by-side with our amazing volunteers to document the extraordinary feats these feathered miracles are capable of. And we use that data to do everything in our power to protect and conserve the habitats migratory birds depend on.

Yes, at BSBO, much of what we do focuses on the science of bird migration. But an equal portion of our mission is helping people fall in love with birds by introducing them to the astonishing things these winged wonders can do. We experience these miracles nearly every day, both in terms of scientific discoveries and in seeing the joy wash over the faces of students when they see their first Blue Jay or Yellow Warbler up close at one of our school programs. (Read a wonderful story about this on page 8.)

Our work helps people make these connections with birds, and ultimately helps generate the support necessary to continue to protect and conserve the precious habitat that migratory birds rely upon for their survival. And just as Blackpoll Warblers rely on critical stopover habitat to ensure their success during migration, the Observatory relies on caring individuals like you to carry out our mission.

Thank you for being a BSBO member and supporting our work. We couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,

# BSBO Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

PAGE 3



At our annual volunteer appreciation picnic, BSBO presented the prestigious **“Shieldcastle Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service” to Rob Ripma of Carmel, Indiana.** Created in honor of Mark and Julie Shieldcastle, two of the founding members of the Observatory, the Shieldcastle Award recognizes individuals who have given extraordinary time, talent, and service to BSBO’s mission to inspire the appreciation, enjoyment, and conservation of birds and their habitats through research, education, and outreach. **BSBO Executive Director, Kimberly Kaufman, had this to say about Mr. Ripma: “Rob’s hard work, dedication, and commitment to BSBO have reaped benefits beyond his own efforts. His belief in the Observatory also inspires and motivates every member of the staff, elevating and enhancing every aspect of the organization. His birding expertise, combined with great organizational skills, boundless energy and enthusiasm, and charm tempered with humility, makes him a blessing to know and a joy to work with. We are deeply honored to award this year’s Shieldcastle Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Rob Ripma.”**

The Observatory also recognized the efforts of Cleveland, Ohio, resident Julie West by presenting her with the Conservation Service Award for exemplary service to the cause of bird conservation. Kaufman lauded West for inspiring people to notice nature: **“We are incredibly pleased to honor Julie West with the 2015 Conservation Service Award. Julie’s dedication to BSBO’s banding research spans more than two decades. Contributing to our knowledge of bird migration at her banding station at Shaker Lakes Nature Center near Cleveland, operating summer breeding bird studies at the Blue Heron Reserve near Sandusky, and assisting with BSBO’s main banding station in Navarre Marsh, Julie has made a significant contribution to our knowledge and understanding of birds and their habitat needs – and to the cause of bird conservation.”**

**The annual volunteer appreciation picnic celebrates BSBO’s work and the thousands of volunteer hours required to achieve the organization’s goals. From hosting one of the country’s largest birding festivals, The Biggest Week In American Birding, banding more songbirds than any other bird banding research station in the country, and offering free songbird education programs to thousands of local students, BSBO has grown into an organization with a national reputation. And we couldn’t do any of it without our outstanding team of volunteers!**

## SPECIAL VOLUNTEER MILESTONES!

### Five-Year Milestone Volunteers

Fran Davis, Carolyn Garber, Jim Garber, Katie Gore, Tom Harmon, Pat Hinds, Norris Hinds, Eileen Jarc, Barry McEwen, Greg Miller, Deb Neidert, Michelle Stone, Dan Donaldson, Kimberley McRitchie, Duane Myers, Hilary White, Kristi Johnson, Kevin Joyce, Gabe Leidy, Chris Lotenero, Judy Richardson, Laura Shelton, Martha Stonerook, Tiffanie Hayes, John Hayes, and Delaney Hayes.

### Fifteen-Year Milestone Volunteers

Brenda Gates, Jean Freidner, Tim Bollin, Reed Anderson, Max Anderson, Ian Anderson, Jane Garling, Doug Overacker, and Julie Karlson.

### Twenty-Year Milestone Volunteers

Dana Bollin, Nancy Howell, and Lester Peyton.



Volunteer of the Year  
Rob Ripma



2015 Conservation  
Service Award  
Julie West



Tom Bartlett was  
recognized for his incredible  
**contribution to BSBO’s**  
education programs through  
his annual BIG SIT fundraiser



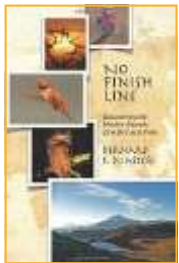


## WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENING!



**Special thanks to our Silent Auction Donors Whose Support Helped Raise \$3,000 for BSBO's Research and Education Efforts!**

Birds and Blooms Magazine, Blackberry Corners, Porky's Pizza Trof, Gifts & More Galore, Deby's Designs, Cavatica Designs, Oak Harbor Dental, Randy & Nancy Kreager, Oak Harbor Neighborhood Resale Shop, Audra's Florist Shop, Barb Padgett, Cathy Burris, Amy Hanney, Walmart in Fremont, NAPA: Oak Harbor Auto Parts, Kim Smith, Delores Cole, Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, Fundraising Rides.com, Garden Smiles Gift Shop, Titgemeier's Feed & Garden, Ann Balogh, Cavatica Designs, Gifts & More Galore, Luckey Farmers, Oak Harbo Hardware, Porky's Pizza Trof, Dr. Andy Jones, Carolyn Garber, Frank Merritt, Patrick Hogan & Tomahawk Archers, Mary J. Gombash, Pat Whitesides, Kelly Riccetti, and Wildside Nature Tours



**Purchase your copy of Dr. Master's sensational new book, *No Finish Line*, in the BSBO gift shop!**

We had a marvelous time at the BSBO Banquet, on October 10th! The weather was perfect, the food delicious, and the company the finest! Dr. Bernard Master captivated the audience with tales of his world birding travels and the conservation efforts behind the most endangered birds in the world.

Our thanks to Schedel Arboretum & Gardens for hosting our event, to Brad Winke and Kimberley McRitchie for donating the sound system, to Diana and Reed Anderson for the perfect music, to our sponsors Zeiss Optics and Wildside Nature Tours, to all of our silent auction donors, and to everyone who joined us for this fabulous evening.



**Keynote Speaker, Dr. Bernard Master**

### BANQUET SPONSORS



**Special thanks to our fabulous Master of Ceremony, Guy Denny!**



**BSBO volunteers Tiffanie Hayes, Karen Zach, and Deb Neidert surprised the staff with an amazing tribute, providing each staff member with a basket of goods and services donated by local businesses, and spelling out a thank you message with the cutest puzzle pieces!**

## BSBO WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



John Blodgett is a native of Maumee, Ohio. After earning his Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan, he was employed by the Toledo Area Boy Scouts and relocated to Oak Harbor. John is currently teaching in the College of Business and Leadership at Lourdes University.

Michelle Klement, CPA, is a tax partner at William Vaughan Company, providing expertise in federal and state tax compliance, tax planning, employee benefit/retirement plan administration, and consulting. Her focus is with the firm's professional service businesses niche. Michelle chairs the firm's tax committee which coordinates the policies and procedures for the William Vaughan Company tax practice.



Thomas Palmer is a senior member with the Marshall & Melhorn law firm's litigation and business groups. Mr. Palmer has been practicing law for more than 35 years in business dispute resolution and general business, contract, commercial, corporate, construction, employment and related legal matters. Mr. Palmer is also one of the managing partners of the firm.

## DATES SET FOR 2016 BIGGEST WEEK!



The Biggest Week Planning Team has been working their tail feathers off planning an aMAYzing festival for 2016! Mark your calendars NOW for May 6-15!

Confirmed speakers include Kenn Kaufman, Scott Weidensaul, Mark Shieldcastle, Steve N.G. Howell, Catherine Hamilton, Michael O'Brien, Erik Bruhnke, Sharon Stiteler, David Ewert, Jonathan Meyrav, Chuck Slusarczyk Jr., Brian Zwiebel, Kevin Loughlin, Drew Lanham, Scott Whittle and Tom Stephenson, Kelly Riccetti, David Stimac, and Stephen Ingraham!

Registration will open in mid-January.  
Learn more at [www.bwiab.com](http://www.bwiab.com) and remember to LIKE The Biggest Week on Facebook!



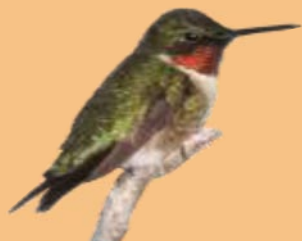
BLACK SWAMP BIRD

### BLACK SWAMP BIRDS & BUSINESS ALLIANCE

*We encourage you to patronize these establishments that support the Observatory. Thank them for their support.*

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Lighthouse Lodge  
Maumee Bay General Store  
Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center  
Maumee Bay Veterinary Hospital, Inc.  
McCarthy's Restaurant & Pub  
McKenna's Inn  
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Toledo Mud Hens  
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours  
Victorian Inn B & B  
Wild Birds Unlimited - Toledo  
Wildside Nature Tours  
Zeiss Optics

# RESEARCH NEWS: BY RESEARCH DIRECTOR MARK SHIELDCASTLE



HELP US  
CONTINUE  
TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT  
MIGRATORY  
BIRDS AND  
THEIR HABITAT  
NEEDS AND...

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banding research  
would not  
be possible  
without expensive  
mist nets.

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and help support  
our research.

To adopt a net,  
please call  
(419) 898-4070,  
or visit our secure  
website at:  
bsbo.org

Thank you  
for helping  
us help  
the birds!

### MIGRATORY SONGBIRD RESEARCH:

The spring 2015 data are still being compiled for our satellite stations but we can look at the data from our main banding station, Navarre Marsh. Our banding totals at Navarre Marsh this spring were 8,304 individuals, which is very close to the average number of birds banded each spring (7,905 individuals). We average more than 1,000 recaptures in a spring season, but this year we only had about 700 recaptures.



Second-year female Kirtland's Warbler

Recaptures allow us to look at migratory stopover duration along the western basin of Lake Erie. Most recaptures are birds we banded earlier in the season. A "foreign" recapture is a bird that already has a band on its leg, but was not originally banded by the BSBO research team. "Foreign" recaptures help us to understand lifespan,

migratory routes, and locate wintering areas (the Gray-cheeked Thrush on the next page is an example of a foreign recapture).

We banded significantly more Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated-green Warbler, Palm Warbler, American Redstart, and

Northern Parula compared to significantly fewer Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, House Wren, and Mourning Warbler this spring

compared to other years. Several exciting highlights this spring include the capture of a Pine Siskin (our station's third record), a "foreign" banded Gray-cheeked Thrush, and second-year female Kirtland's Warbler (our station's second record)! Other highlights include the capture of Green Heron, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Worm-eating Warbler.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BSBO'S RESEARCH ONLINE AT  
[WWW.BSBO.ORG](http://WWW.BSBO.ORG) & [BSBOBIRDBANDER.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://BSBOBIRDBANDER.BLOGSPOT.COM)

Top Ten species for spring 2015 and the 1989-2014 average at the Navarre Banding Station

Spring 2015		1989-2014 Average	
Species	# Banded	Species	# Banded
Yellow-rumped Warbler	954	Magnolia Warbler	643
Magnolia Warbler	678	Yellow-rumped Warbler	563
White-throated Sparrow	535	White-throated Sparrow	513
Gray Catbird	466	Gray Catbird	415
Yellow Warbler	461	Yellow Warbler	378
American Redstart	449	Common Yellowthroat	321
Trail's Flycatcher	355	Trail's Flycatcher	297
Common Yellowthroat	311	American Redstart	281
Palm Warbler	309	Swainson's Thrush	248
Wilson's Warbler	250	Nashville Warbler	208





On May 18, 2015, the BSBO research team captured a Gray-cheeked Thrush that was already wearing a band. Upon inspection, they discovered that the band was from another continent! A bit of online research led us to a research team in Colombia, South America.

BSBO Research Director, Mark Shieldcastle, contacted the Colombia research team through their website, and within a matter of minutes, we had the response, below! How cool that out of 2,000 Gray-cheeks banded, this is their FIRST North American recovery!

“The bird was originally banded on April 21, 2014, in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in northern Colombia, in the forest reserve of a shade-grown coffee farm known as the Hacienda La Victoria. The bird was banded as an ‘After Second

Year’ (ASY) and subsequent analysis of a blood sample taken at the time of capture revealed that the bird was a male.”

This is a powerful reminder of the value of bird banding and how it helps document the routes and habitat needs of migratory birds.



## COLONIAL WADING BIRD POPULATIONS MONITORING

In June, we completed our 24th year of population monitoring field work on West Sister Island National Wildlife Refuge. This is a cooperative project between BSBO, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ohio Division of Wildlife. BSBO is responsible for banding a sample of the herons and egrets on the island to provide information on the dispersal of these birds. The island holds 40% of all the nesting herons and egrets in the U.S. Great Lakes region. Monitoring of the population has become increasingly important due to the range expansion and increased population density of the Double-crested Cormorant and the resulting habitat loss. The Black-crowned Night-Heron population has been declining on the island to well below 500 pairs. They once reached a high of 1,200 pairs on the

island. The Black-crowned Night-Heron has been designated a bird species of concern in the Great Lakes by the USFWS.

## BSBO PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Since 2002, BSBO has been conducting rail studies in northwest Ohio. We submitted a research article about the timing of rail migration in the Lake Erie marshes, and our article was recently accepted for publication by *Waterbirds*, the International Journal of Waterbird Biology.

**Abstract: Timing of Rail Migration in the Southwest Lake Erie Marshes**  
Several studies have documented the arrival time of spring migration of Virginia Rails (*Rallus limicola*), King Rails (*R. elegans*), and Sora (*Porzana carolina*) on the southwestern shore of Lake Erie, though not in recent decades, and most of this information is based on anecdotal records. These three species were captured in wetlands on Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Ottawa and Lucas Counties, Ohio, USA, from 2004 to 2009. Virginia Rails and Sora were documented arriving in northern Ohio earlier than in previous research, but not older than anecdotal records. King Rails were within the bounds of all previous records. Using traps with playback may have allowed us to detect these species at earlier dates than previous research. Documenting current spring migration arrival timing of these three secretive marsh bird species is important for future monitoring, research and wetland management. Received 20 February 2015, accepted 11 June 2015.

Fournier, A.M.V., M.C. Shieldcastle, T. Kashmer, and K.A. Mylecraine. 2015. Timing of Rail Migration in the Southwest Lake Erie Marshes, Ohio, USA. *Waterbirds*.

## OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WILDLIFE DRIVE DATES

Sept. 19 - 20, 27  
Oct. 18  
Nov. 15  
Dec. 19 - 20

\*Open sunrise  
to sunset





I grew up in the rural farm country of southeast Pennsylvania, and much of my time was spent exploring the countryside, discovering the amazing things our natural world has to offer.

Looking back, I realize how lucky I was to have had the chance to create a connection with our natural world. We have lots of local schools, mostly from rural areas, **visit us at BSBO for programs every spring. However, it's** often the visits by inner-city schools that are the most demanding but also the most rewarding. With that, I wanted to share with you my experience with one such inner-city class from this past spring.

**It's late May, and the entire 4th & 5th grade classes from the Toledo STEM Academy** (part of the Toledo Public School System) spent the day at BSBO, learning about birds and the importance of the marsh habitat.

The students stepped off the bus one by one and huddled together in the BSBO parking lot, scanning their surroundings with wide eyes. I asked if they were nervous, and they nodded their heads in unison. With an apprehensive voice, one **of the boys quietly asked, "Are there any alligators in the marsh?" I smiled and offered gentle reassurance. "No," I said, quietly, "there are no alligators in the marsh, and nothing else that could eat you! You are totally safe here!"** Instantly, all the nervous energy was gone and the students started jumping up and down with **excitement about the day's activities.**

BSBO Education staff and volunteers had a blast with this energetic group of students! They spent the day exploring the marsh, learned interesting new bird facts with fun games like Jeop-Birdy, and learned about bird migration during a songbird banding program.

**For most of these students, this was the first time they'd experienced nature. In fact, for many, it was the first time they'd traveled outside the city of Toledo. They had** seen wild places like Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on television, but had never visited one.

Sharing these experiences with young people who have never before had the opportunity to be out in nature takes hold of your heart and never lets go. While we welcome and look forward to all students who come **through our programs, it's the students like these that** leave a lasting impression, and help us realize just how important our work truly is.



Our work can be very challenging, but we know how lucky we are to have the chance to build these connections between kids and the **natural world. And we wouldn't have these opportunities without YOU!** As a BSBO member, YOU are making these experiences possible for thousands of students each year.

Thank you for your support!





# OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB



The Ohio Young Birders Club isn't just about going on super fun field trips all over the state of Ohio. Many of our young birders want to give back by doing service projects.

Our OYBC Central Chapter (sponsored by the amazing folks at Columbus Audubon)

has been leading the way on grassroots conservation service projects over the past several years. In early August, the OYBC Central Chapter made a trip to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR) to work with the Refuge's Friends group to install a Tree Swallow grid of 16 nest boxes in the prairie and four nest boxes near the ONWR Visitor Center. Not only did our young birders install the nest boxes, but they also built them earlier this year! The grid was successfully installed, and Tree Swallows have already started investigating the new nest boxes!

Special thanks to Central Ohio Chapter Advisors Darlene Sillick, Tim Daniel, and Nina Harfmann; their tremendous effort made this project possible. And our sincere appreciation to parents Mike and Dawn Zook and Tim Bischoff.

It's so encouraging to see young conservationists in action. There's hope for the future, folks! And it looks like this!



The Ohio Young Birders Club is supported by memberships, sponsorships, and donations.

Student membership is just \$10

Adults, please consider becoming a friend of the OYBC. For just \$20 a year, you can help support the future of bird conservation!

Your organization can help the OYBC, too!

Organizations can sponsor the OYBC at the following levels:

\$1,000 BALD EAGLE  
\$750 PEREGRINE FALCON  
\$500 RED-TAILED HAWK  
\$250 MERLIN  
\$100 AMERICAN KESTREL

Visit [www.oybc.org](http://www.oybc.org) to join or donate through our secure online PayPal service, or contact BSBO at 419-898-4070 to pay over the phone.

## BSBO WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBERS!



Ryan Jacob joins us as our Staff Naturalist, in charge of helping to share BSBO's message with the community. Ryan will assist with research projects, education programs, and The Biggest Week.



Kim Smith joins us as our Executive Assistant, in charge of aiding the BSBO staff with a variety of tasks, including management of our membership and donor databases.

## BSBO EARNS GLOBAL DESIGNATION FOR LAKE ERIE'S WESTERN AND CENTRAL BASINS



BSBO staff worked for weeks to compile and submit data to nominate the Western and Central Basins of Lake Erie for Globally Important Bird Areas. On May 8th, during the opening ceremonies for The Biggest Week In American Birding, Gary Langham, Chief Scientist for National Audubon Society (NAS), made the announcement that both nominations had been approved, and the Western and Central Basins became Ohio's first Globally Important Bird Areas.

Considerable research was conducted to meet the various listing criteria for the program. Although the program requires benchmarks to be met

for just one species, both the Western and Central Basin met the criteria for multiple birds. Species of Global Conservation Concern for the Western Basin included Rusty Blackbird and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Species where one percent of a biogeographic population can be found in the area at one time or 5% in a season included American Black Duck, Double-crested Cormorant, Lesser Scaup, and Red-breasted Merganser for the Western Basin, and Bonaparte's Gull, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ring-billed Gull for the Central Basin.

The next criterion calls for at least one species where one percent of the global population can be found in the area at one time or five percent of the global population in a season. The Western Basin actually had 14 species of passerines that met this criterion, including Kirtland Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Golden-winged Warbler. Species that met the criterion looking for five percent of the global population included Broad-winged Hawk and Dunlin.

Waterfowl, waterbird, shorebird, and raptor candidate species were identified through existing monitoring programs of **BSBO and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Passerine data was developed through BSBO's own band recovery analysis that was** unprecedented in the IBA program.

Among many other benefits, these designations provide an additional layer of protection, and provide important support for land acquisition and habitat restoration grants. BSBO offers special thanks to NAS IBA Coordinator Connie Sanchez for all of her assistance with your nominations.

## BSBO HELPS OHIO BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE DEVELOP WHITE PAPER ON FERAL AND FREE-RANGING DOMESTIC CATS

Feral and free-ranging domestic cats kill billions of birds and small mammals each year. To address this significant threat to birds, the leadership at BSBO initiated dialog with partners of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative to encourage this statewide conservation collaborative to establish a position statement on the issue. After months of research and discussion, the OBCI Steering Committee voted to adopt a strong position on this issue. At their quarterly meeting this fall, the BSBO Board voted to adopt this position as well. Visit [www.bsbo.org](http://www.bsbo.org) to read the full statement.

## BSBO FORMS CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Chaired by BSBO Board member, John Blodgett, the BSBO Conservation Committee will be charged with the task of **establishing the organization's policies and position statements on bird conservation issues. BSBO is seeking applications to** join this important and influential committee. Interested parties should contact Kimberly Kaufman at (419) 898-4070 or [kimkaufman@bsbo.org](mailto:kimkaufman@bsbo.org).

## DONATE THE GUIA PROGRAM

In the spring of 2005, Kenn Kaufman's Field Guide to the Birds of North America became the first field guide to the birds of the US and Canada to ever be published in Spanish. Kenn's vision for *Guia de campo a las aves de Norteamérica* was to help recruit scores of new birders from among the more than 28 million Americans who speak Spanish at home. The hope is that the more people we can awaken to the beauty and importance of our natural world, the more support we win for conservation.

Black Swamp Bird Observatory believes in Kenn's vision, so we put together the **DONATE THE GUIA** program to help get this book into the hands of people who can really use it. We're working with many partners to help distribute copies of the **GUIA** to organizations and individuals who are using the books for conservation outreach programs.

For just \$12, **YOU** can send a copy of this valuable outreach tool to our partners! Call BSBO at (419) 898-4070, visit [www.bsbo.org/donate-the-guia](http://www.bsbo.org/donate-the-guia), or stop by the BSBO gift shop to donate a copy today!



**Guias donated in honor of friends and loved ones make GREAT gifts!**

**Call (419) 898-4070, visit [www.bsbo.org](http://www.bsbo.org), or stop by the BSBO Gift Shop to Donate a Guia, TODAY!**



## THANK YOU TO OUR GUIA DONORS

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Cheryl Yarger  
Autumn Young  
Karen Zach  
Karin Zuckerman



## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Black Swamp Bird Observatory could not function without the assistance of volunteers. You may choose to help occasionally or regularly, as your schedule permits. No experience is necessary.

**Benefits:** Opportunities to learn, share with others who have similar interests, and promote the Bird Observatory's mission. Please contact us by phone at (419) 898-4070, or email [staff@bsbo.org](mailto:staff@bsbo.org) to join the team!

**Gift Shop and BSBO Office:** Meet people from all over the world, help BSBO do all the "behind-the-scenes" work that is so vital to the Observatory's success. Answer the phone (that thing NEVER stops ringing these days!), greet customers in the gift shop, ring up sales, interact with visitors and answer questions.

**Data entry and clerical work:** Many of our programs and projects require hundreds of hours of data entry and clerical work. The job might not be all that exciting, but it's an integral part of research. We REALLY appreciate the people who help us out with this task ---like Tracy Marr, for example! :-)

**Adopt-A-Highway / Clean Up:** Help keep our stretch of St. Rt. 2 clean. We also need help cleaning gutters, cutting brush along our walking trail, and keeping BSBO looking beee-u-tee-ful!

**Passerine Banding Station:** Volunteers needed 7 days per week during spring and fall migration. The spring season runs from mid-April to early June and the fall season is from mid-August to mid-October. Volunteers must attend a mandatory fall training workshop to participate in this project.

**BSBO Booth/Display:** We are looking for volunteers to help work our booth and portable store at various festivals and events. It's a lot of fun and it really helps spread the BSBO message!



## ANNA MACKE MIKOLAJCZYK WINDOW ON WILDLIFE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Anna's Window has brought the joy of discovery to so many lives. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching visitors make their way into Anna's room, waiting to hear the intake of breath, followed by the "ooohs & aaahs" as they see the birdy scene before them through her window. Our feeders are kept full and clean by donations to Anna's Window on Wildlife fund.



Please help us replenish our bird seed stash! The resident and migrant birds (and possibly a squirrel and opossum) around the BSBO grounds will thank you!

Donations can be made online at [www.bsbo.org](http://www.bsbo.org), or by mailing a check to  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
13551 W. St. Rt. 2 • Oak Harbor, OH • 43449  
Please indicate "Anna's Window" in the memo line.

## BSBO WISH LIST



## EQUIPMENT &amp; SUPPLIES

- Mist Nets for our research (\$75 per net)
- Bird Seed and Suet for our feeders
- HP LaserJet 05A Black Ink/Toner Cartridge
- Cases of copy paper
- Cases of paper towels and toilet paper

## RETAIL GIFT CARDS

- Staples or OfficeMax for office supplies
- Home Depot or Lowe's for maintenance supplies
- Gas Cards to help fuel the BSBO Bird Bus (NO BP GAS CARDS, please!)

## UPCOMING BSBO EVENTS:

## SONGBIRD MIGRATION BANDING PROGRAM

September 26, 2015  
10 a.m. - FREE  
Located at BSBO  
(13551 W. SR 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449)

## BSBO BANQUET (see page 4 for more details)

October 10, 2015  
4:30 - 9:00 PM  
Located at Schedel Arboretum & Gardens

## 9th ANNUAL OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

November 7, 2015  
8 AM - 5 PM  
Rocky River Nature Center  
(North Olmsted, OH)  
For more details, go to  
[www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)

## LAKE ERIE PELAGIC (Two Dates)

November 21, 2015  
December 5, 2015  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Preregistration required by calling 419-898-4070  
[www.bsbo.org](http://www.bsbo.org)

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 6, 2015  
Noon to 4 p.m.  
Located at BSBO  
(13551 W. SR 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449)

## FREMONT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Date: TBD  
For assignments or information  
call (419) 898-4070

## PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO BSBO IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

You can help ensure the future of our research and education efforts by including Black Swamp Bird Observatory in your estate plans.

Bequests of any size are gratefully accepted.

You will help us continue to help birds and conserve their habitats when you name Black Swamp Bird Observatory to receive:

- ◆ A specific dollar amount
- ◆ A percentage of your estate's value
- ◆ All or part of the remainder of your estate in your will or trust
- ◆ All or part of the proceeds of a Life Insurance policy or Retirement Plan

Before completing your bequest to Black Swamp Bird Observatory, please contact us to ensure that your philanthropic goals will be met.

*Leave a legacy—remember BSBO in your estate planning*



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### SUSTAINING

Nancy Herl

### FRIENDS

Eleanor Armitage

Laura Ceperly

Caitlin Hopkinson

Brenda Smith

Eric Smith

### SUPPORTING

Sallie Barnes

Vincent Capozziello

Ray & Ann Jacobs

Claudia Kotchka

James & Amanda Naprawa

Carol Neidert

Dana Ricker

Robert White

### FAMILY

Alula Birding & Natural

History Tours

Kathy & Paul Ackerman

Carol Allen-Rasoul

Terri & Chuck Anderson

Rick Applegate

Dierdre Bahls

Carl Becker

John Betts

Dana Bjorklund & Linda Co

Margaret Bowen

Alan Bowersox

Richard Bradley

Shirley Brandt

Kami Brough

Lewis Brown

Lisa Brown-Hite

Lori Brumbaugh & Louis

Gardell

Peter Bungay

Jim Butler

RaeAnn Butler

Peter & Peggy Casey

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Lois Dow

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Norma Gilts

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Thomas Goetten

David Gorsline

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Carol Anelli

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Kate Bedor

Florence Bennett

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Alyssia Church

Toni Clark

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Margit Codispoti

Tina Cohen

Jeff Colon

Diane Constable

Jose Luis Copete

Matthew Corlett

Leslie Cronin

Lindsay Dearborn

Carl Deschone

Nancy Devine

Chuck Dombrowski

Kathy Edwards

Charlene Edwards

Donna Edwards

Barb Elliot

Daniel Elliott

Elizabeth Ferguson

Marianne Ferrara

Louann Fiedmann

Michael Florian

Judy Ford-Knipp

Sharon Frankel

\*Continued on page 14

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

## INDIVIDUAL

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Candy Graham  
Angela Granieri  
Sue Gruber  
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Judy Runkel  
Bill Sain  
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Mia Schmitt  
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Shi Shi  
Dana Simon  
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Janice Yardon  
Eileen Yeager  
Sandra Young  
Nancy Youse  
Gisela Zelenka-  
Drysedale  
Karen Zeleznik

\*As of July 31, 2015



Thank you to all of our new members! Our work depends on the support of our members like YOU.

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Walter Zarnoch  
Fred Zimmerman  
Karen Zipser

\*As of July 31, 2015

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In Memory of...

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Lee & Jane Garling

Loraine Crowe  
Lee & Jane Garling

Myra Lucki  
Lee & Jane Garling

Jim Lowe  
Joyce Baker

Leon Bockbrader  
Lee & Jane Garling

Beatrice Wank  
Lee & Jane Garling

Joan Finch Cordas  
Terry & Mary Breymaier

## GIFTS WE HAVE RECEIVED

Bird Seed: Candace Patz  
Bird Seed & Suet Cakes: Paul Owens  
Bird Seed: Walmart (Fremont, OH)  
Paint: Karen Zach

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**Black Swamp Bird Observatory**

13551 W. State Route 2  
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449  
www.bsbo.org  
(419) 898-4070

We are located just inside the entrance  
to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

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**Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
Membership Renewal**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I want to conserve trees and expense; sign me up for electronic delivery of the BSBO bi-annual newsletter.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount - Yes, I would like to make a donation to help support BSBO!

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues

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

Are you interested in volunteering? How? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_ \$15 Student (24 and under)  
\_\_\_ \$35 Individual  
\_\_\_ \$25 Individual Senior (60 +)  
\_\_\_ \$40 Family  
\_\_\_ \$100 Supporting  
\_\_\_ \$250 Friends  
\_\_\_ \$500 Sustaining

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