

BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY



BSBO NEWS

AUTUMN 2018

Or visit us online at...



When the BSBO Education and Research teams come together to present our school programs, there's a magic that happens. The young man smiling with his whole face is Jayden. During a school program this fall, they banded a Blue Jay, Jayden's favorite bird. Once it was banded and all data collected, Jayden got to release the bird back to the wild. That smile...straight to our hearts. Your support as a BSBO member makes moments like this possible. We just can't thank you enough!

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Teaming Research

With Education

To Promote

Bird Conservation



Black Swamp Bird Observatory

*Teaming Research with
Education to Promote Bird
Conservation*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERCH

One kid at a time...

That's how we'll change the world. By giving every kid who's in front of us, kids like Jayden, pictured on the front cover, our undivided attention, listening to their ideas and questions, nurturing their need for community, fostering their interest in the natural world, and facilitating opportunities whenever we can. BSBO's Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) allows us to engage young people on a regular basis, making all those elements of success possible. And if you desire proof that this approach works, then read these quotes from letters of support we received from two of the earliest members of the OYBC.

"Of the OYBC founding members, four of the six are involved in the scientific community as a career, and all of us continue as nature lovers in our free time. There is important value in the OYBC beyond its powerful ability to enable young people from diverse backgrounds to start careers in science. Ohio and our country desperately need a public that values our natural communities and are invested in environmental health. This includes everyone, not just scientists. I firmly believe organizations like the OYBC are vital for fostering that appreciation and value in the lives of everyone, regardless of their chosen career path."

~ Dr. Auriel Fornier, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Mississippi State University, Coastal Research and Extension

"I owe my confidence as a birder, student, educator, and scientist to the encouragement I received and empowerment I experienced as an active OYBC member. I firmly believe that without the support and opportunities provided by the OYBC I would not have become the scientist that I am today."

~ Sarah Winnicki, Master's Student, Kansas State University

We reached out to Sarah and Dr. Fornier in the hopes that they would write letters of support for a major grant application we were working on. What we got was so much more. The letters were so moving that we felt we'd already won the greatest reward before we'd ever submitted the application. The letters were such compelling statements about the impact of this program that we added two full pages to this newsletter so that we could share them in their entirety with our members. Please be sure to read these letters on page 10 & 11.

Your support for BSBO helped us make this kind of impact on the lives of young people like Jayden, Sarah, and Auriel. As you read their letters--and all the other great work summarized in this newsletter--I hope you'll share in the pride that I feel at the astonishing amount of good the BSBO team accomplishes thanks to caring people like you. With your continued support, we'll keep having this kind of impact on the lives of young people. We'll keep changing the world for the better.

Enjoy the beauty of the season,

Kimberly Kaufman

Spring migration in northwestern Ohio draws over 90,000 visitors. Birders come to the area to see an invasion of colorful little warblers, and the 2018 Biggest Week In American Birding was no exception. Birding was phenomenal during this year's festival.

The Biggest Week has hosted birders from all 50 states, from 52 countries, and six continents. The annual impact to the area from birders is \$40 million and counting!

Here at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, we are already planning to make the 10th anniversary of The Biggest Week In American Birding the best yet.

For 2019's festival, there will be a special presentation by Kenn Kaufman to introduce his new book, *A Season on the Wind*. The book is scheduled to be published in late April 2019. *A Season on the Wind* features spring migration in northwestern Ohio and The Biggest Week!

Also new for 2019, Sabrewing Nature Tours will be scheduling a three-day trip to see Kirtland's Warblers! This new event is still in the planning stages, so look for updates on our website.

For information on registration, volunteering, tours, and new events for Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Biggest Week In American Birding, check biggestweekinamericanbirding.com. You can also visit bsbo.org and sign up for eNews updates as well!

Happy birding! See you at the 10th anniversary of The Biggest Week In American Birding!

A special Thanks to our Festival Partners, Leaders & Drivers, Sponsors, Tour Company Partners, Vendors and Volunteers, for a successful festival in 2018.

**SAVE THE DATES!
Don't miss the migration!**

Celebrating The Biggest Week's

10th ANNIVERSARY!



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

May 3 - 12, 2019

Join us in Northwest Ohio -

"The Warbler Capital of the World"

2018 Biggest Week species by the numbers



WATERFOWL

34



SHOREBIRDS

28



SPARROWS

16



WARBLERS

38



TOTAL NUMBER

255



Above: 2018 Volunteer Appreciation Day group photo. *Opposite top left:* Shieldcastle Award recipients Jack and Cathy Burris. *Opposite top right:* Shieldcastle Award recipient Brad Winke. *Opposite middle left:* BSBO Executive Director Kimberly Kaufman congratulating Brad Winke on his award. *Opposite middle right:* Volunteers enjoying a trip led by Kenn Kaufman at Howard Marsh Metropark. *Opposite bottom left:* BSBO research team giving a bird banding demonstration for volunteers. *Opposite bottom right:* Conservation Service Award recipients Paula Lozano and Delores Cole.

26th Annual Volunteer Picnic

In August, Black Swamp Bird Observatory held its annual volunteer picnic. This year's picnic was more than a picnic; it was a celebratory Volunteer Appreciation Day.

Volunteers were invited to start the day at 8AM at Howard Marsh Metropark for a hike led by field guide author and Black Swamp Bird Observatory volunteer Kenn Kaufman and student members of BSBO's Ohio Young Birders Club. After the hike, volunteers made their way back to the Black Swamp Bird Observatory headquarters where the Research Team held a bird banding demonstration and members of the Education and Outreach Departments held a meet and greet.

After everyone got started on lunch, BSBO Executive Director Kim Kaufman shared some exciting volunteer news. Mary Beth Wielgopolski has taken on the role of Volunteer Coordinator. Mary Beth's first project was expanding the volunteer picnic into a multifaceted day-

long celebration for volunteers. Thank you so much for the hard work you have already put in, Mary Beth!!

Staff then recognized volunteers' anniversaries and presented them with a patch for the new volunteer recognition program. Each milestone (1 year, 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, etc.) will be marked with a recognition patch.

Three volunteers who have been with BSBO since its inception were present at the volunteer day. Vic Harder, Lois Harder, and Joe Komorowski were recognized for their 26 years of service to BSBO and given milestone patches for their service.

Awards were then handed out for Conservation Service and Volunteer of the Year. Shieldcastle Awards (Volunteer of the Year) were presented to Jack and Cathy Burris and Brad Winke. Conservation Service Award recipients were Paula Lozano and Delores Cole.



THANK
YOU!



By Conservation Committee member Steve Pollick

The BSBO Conservation Committee has maintained a high-energy pace on many fronts, particularly in regard to its most critical issue, that of conservation of birds and bats in the face of several proposed massive wind farms. Without further ado:

LEEDCo/Icebreaker project

This six-turbine project in central Lake Erie off Cleveland would be North America's first freshwater offshore wind project and doubtless would pave the way for thousands of turbines across the Great Lakes and rest of the continent. The science and conservation of wildlife must be done right, which is BSBO's unyielding stance.

Committee members plan to attend an Ohio Power Siting Board adjudicatory hearing re-scheduled for September 24. They both testified earlier at an OPSB public hearing in Cleveland in behalf of sound science and strict oversight applied rigorously to Icebreaker.

A telling article in the Sept. 7 Cleveland Plain Dealer indicates that BSBO-led concerns are being heard. A summary said in part: The staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board has recommended that the six wind turbines the Lake Erie Energy Development Corp. (LEEDCo) has proposed building 10 miles offshore operate only during daylight hours for 10 months out of the year while experts



determine whether technology designed to detect bird and bat collisions with the turbines is effective. LEEDCo has

tried without success to negotiate a compromise. The issue and other issues regarding sophisticated radar systems are now headed into that begin Sept. 24 in Columbus.

On a related note, the Ohio Sierra Club and Ohio Environmental Council continue unquestioned support of wind power as an alternative to fossil fuel without challenging demonstrable wildlife (bird and bat killings) impacts of turbine arrays.

The Committee's Steve Pollick, meanwhile, submitted an independent, sharp rebuttal Op-Ed to The Blade in response to a pointed LEEDCo Op-Ed in that newspaper. LEEDCo's Op-Ed took aim pointedly at BSBO for questioning Icebreaker's impacts. Pollick's piece has been re-published on social media, so it may have a wider reach.

Also, the National Audubon Society appears to be hardening its stance in questioning the validity of LEEDCo/Icebreaker as a result of BSBO challenges.

EDP Renewables Timber Road

This is a wind-turbine facility in Paulding County owned by EDP Renewables, known as Timber Road II, in which BSBO is able to analyze mortality data. The data was provided to BSBO after years of requests and meetings facilitated between BSBO and EDP Renewables by Ohio Department of Natural Resources. BSBO Conservation Committee member and noted wind researcher, Dr. Shawn Smallwood, is scheduled to complete an analysis. BSBO filed a federal Freedom of Information Act request for this data, which was rejected on the grounds that it might "impeded an ongoing federal investigation into the facility." Even while there was an investigation taking place, the Ohio Power Siting Board approved an expansion of this facility. Just one more major obstacle we face in protecting birds and bats from the expansion of wind energy.

Republic Wind

An OPSB public hearing for this 58-turbine project for as been postponed with a new date unset. The Committee has obtained massive amounts of information in the applications, much of it on birds and bats. Our initial review indicates much of the information is dated and questionable, and the Committee plans to prepare case comments for BSBO.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS AT BSBO.ORG



Seneca Wind

The Committee plans to review data for Seneca Wind, which would construct 85 units, according to OPSB. Both these projects have generated widespread local opposition.

Ohio Wind Energy Legislation

Member Ken Mauer has drafted proposed state wind-energy legislation to address the complete and utter lack of regulation or wildlife review of massive single turbine projects in Ohio. With support from two Ohio lawmakers, on Aug. 20 the Committee presented our draft to the administration and staff of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The discussion focused on the benefits of ODNR's Memorandum of Understanding with LEEDCo as a template for future projects, and of the need to substantially revise the ODNR pre- and post-construction monitoring protocols. BSBO is awaiting ODNR comments.

This action would change overall responsibility on wind projects.

BSBO's Bird-safe / Birder-friendly Communities Initiatives

Toledo Initiative - Lights Out

BSBO continues to build this program, to turn off lights in and on tall buildings during bird migrations, as "Bird Friendly Toledo" rather than as a "Lights Out" project

(elsewhere) because of the latter's negative implications. Lucas County commissioners have endorsed the concept, but a change of mayor in Toledo has slowed the city response, which is expected to be positive as well.

Oak Harbor Initiative - Outdoor Cat Program

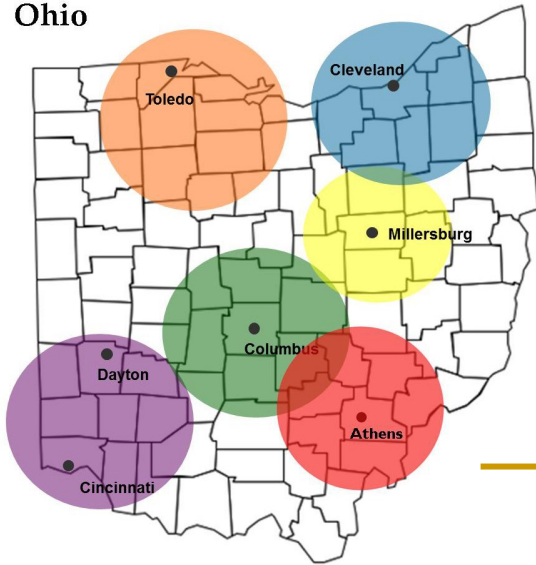
BSBO's proposal to control feral cats in the village of Oak Harbor recently received increased impetus with a complaint at a recent council meeting by Mil Greggila, Principal of the St. Boniface Elementary School.

Greggila reported that dozens of cats in a nearby colony are using the school's grassy playground as a giant litterbox. She said that the cats that are either friendly enough or too sick (or have grave injuries with maggots visible) to flee often are picked up by the kids. Also, a school staff member left car windows down on a particularly hot day, only to discover when she arrived home that one of the cats had stowed away in her car.

Committee members in attendance raised issues over human health concerns from feral cat colonies, of which the village has several. It was also noted that BSBO had convened a working group and the group has presented the revised legislation to the Village Safety Committee. If approved, a cat ordinance would be presented to Village Council. We expect Village Council to adopt this revised legislation at a meeting this fall.

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB WELCOMES NEW CHAPTER

Ohio



OYBC Regional Chapter Key:

- NW Chapter
- SW Chapter
- NE Chapter
- Central Chapter
- Holmes-Wayne County Chapter
- SE Chapter

BSBO continues to expand our efforts to engage and empower young people, and we are thrilled to announce a new regional chapter of our young birders program!

Please help us to welcome the Ohio Young Birders Club Southeast Chapter! This new chapter will help OYBC reach a broader geographical range of young birders and provide enriching experiences in nature.

If you are interested in joining the SW Advisor team, contact Laura Guerard at lauraguerard@bsbo.org.

So far this fall, BSBO has delivered programs to over 2,000 students. In addition to many other groups and schools, major programs included our participation in "Explore Your Backyard" for all Sandusky County 4th grade classes, the 57th Annual Conservation Field Day for Ottawa County 5th grades, the annual BIG event (Believing In Girls) for Girls Scouts.

During the month of October BSBO's education, outreach, and research staff will host schools from the Toledo area to deliver the acclaimed Wetland Investigation Network (WIN program) with our partners at Ottawa NWR and the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. We are fortunate to be able to offer these programs to students at no cost to schools thanks to the support of BSBO members, donors, and grants.



Fourth grade volunteers help Outreach Director, Jason Guerard, demonstrate owl adaptations during "Exploring Your Backyard"



BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY



Ohio Young Birders Club
BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY

12th Annual Ohio Young Birders Conference Saturday, November 3 Grange Insurance Audubon Center Columbus, OH



The revolutionary OYBC Conference provides unique opportunities for student members to address an audience of their peers with professional presentations on birding and/or conservation topics of their choosing. In addition to the student presentations, the OYBC Annual Conference includes field trips, fabulous door prizes, lunch, optics raffles, and a bird quiz led by noted author Kenn Kaufman with assistance from OYBC members. The OYBC Conference is a great way to be inspired by young birders from all over the state and to see what unique opportunities the OYBC can provide! This is an event for the whole family!

BSBO RECEIVES \$35,000 GRANT FROM THE FREDERICK S. UPTON FOUNDATION

We are thrilled to announce that the BSBO education department's \$35,000 grant application to the Frederick S. Upton Foundation has been FULLY FUNDED! This grant will provide funding that will allow us to continue to offer our dynamic education programs for more students in the coming year. We offer sincere gratitude to BSBO Board Member, Margy Trumbull for helping make our application possible.

The mission of the Frederick S. Upton Foundation is to love your community; to be aware and perceptive as to what is needed – economically and culturally; to improve and enrich the quality of life of its inhabitants; and to work together as family members and trustees, serving others through the Foundation with wisdom and compassion.

OCTOBER

Ohio Young Birders Club Big Sit/Big Day Fundraiser

Support nature education with a donation to your local OYBC chapter! Check your local OYBC chapter for details and to register visit ohioyoungbirders.org

NOVEMBER

Saturday, Nov. 3

Ohio Young Birders Conference

Visit ohioyoungbirders.org for more information

Sunday, Nov. 11

Highway Cleanup and Grounds Beautification

10AM-12PM, Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Saturday, Nov. 17

Lake Erie Pelagic

9AM-1PM, Cleveland Flats
BSBO members \$60, BSBO non-members \$75, OYBC/
student \$30
bsbo.org/lake-erie-pelagics



DECEMBER

Saturday, Dec. 1

Lake Erie Pelagic

9AM-1PM, Cleveland Flats
BSBO members \$60, BSBO non-members \$75, OYBC/
student \$30
bsbo.org/lake-erie-pelagics



Sunday, Dec. 2

Holiday Open House

12-4PM, BSBO, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, Dec. 1, to Sunday, Dec. 2

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

Sunrise to sunset
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, Dec. 22, to Sunday, Dec. 23

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

Sunrise to sunset
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

I am writing in support of the Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) grant application. The six years I spent as a student member of the OYBC built my self-confidence as a struggling teen, trained me as a science educator, instilled in me the importance of community outreach, and launched my career as an avian ecologist.

I have loved birds and bird-watching since I was a toddler, but quickly learned in elementary school that my hobby was unusual and a great target for bullying. I attended bird walks at local parks, turning to adults when my peers would not accept me, but often had to deal with older birders who found my youthful exuberance too annoying or who discounted my knowledge because of my age. I had almost given up on birding as a hobby when I learned about the newly formed OYBC in 2006. I was ecstatic to meet other students who liked going birding, expecting to find friends with whom I could share my passion uninhibited by shame or embarrassment. Little did I know that the OYBC would be that and so much more.

On my very first outing with the OYBC, I was greeted by a community dedicated to giving me space to explore my passion, connecting me with peers across the state and world, educating me about not only the identification of birds but also conservation and life history, and empowering me to become a leader in education, outreach, and research. I immediately had friends to chat with about birds any day of the week—we spent hours not only bird watching, but also playing board games, catching snakes, and exploring the natural world. We connected with young birders around the world, comparing life-lists, competing on bird identification quizzes, and helping them kick-start their own birding communities.

Because of the OYBC I still have a group of close friends and professional contacts around the world in fields as diverse as environmental law, ecotourism, education, and scientific research.

The adult leaders of the group went out of their way to make each one of us feel that our insights were meaningful and

important, extending their support beyond just bird-related topics to embrace our other hobbies and accomplishments. No bird was too common for them to help us identify—to this day one of my favorite birds is the Red-breasted Merganser,

because on that first bird walk the adult leaders took the time to show me a merganser and tell me all about it, despite the fact that there were thousands on the lake that day and the rest of the students were more interested in the rare gulls nearby. I still remember some of the conversations on the long bus rides, where mentors from the local community would encourage us to chat away for hours about our piano recitals, soccer games, classwork, etc.

As a struggling teenager with little support at home, I was incredibly moved by the extent to which the adults in the group embraced us for who we were—the first time I met the amazing Kimberly Kaufman she greeted me like a long-lost family member and pulled me away to catch some moths. We were invited to participate at the annual Young Birders Conferences, where students gave hour-long presentations like important keynote speakers. I will never forget how, as a nervous 14-year-old presenting about condors to hundreds of people, I looked at the front row and saw Kenn Kaufman taking a page of notes, as if everything I had to say was new and exciting to an expert on birds! I cannot express how important and meaningful the adult mentors' support was for me as a teen.

Many undergraduates get caught in a situation where they do not have enough experience to get a job and cannot gain experience because they have no job, forcing them to take unpaid positions and accrue tons of debt.

The OYBC helped us bypass that scenario altogether by providing us with meaningful outreach, research, and education experience in middle and high school. Our Youth Advisory Panel ran the club—as teens we would hold conference calls with governing officials, local business leaders, and conservation groups. We spoke at birding festivals and Audubon meetings, reaching out to families and other young adults. We participated in biological surveys with expert herpetologists, entomologists, and botanists.

Through the club we had amazing opportunities—I attended the Cornell Young Birders' Event with the help of an OYBC scholarship, and led an ecotourism trip to the Galapagos Islands as an intern with Wildside Nature Tours Inc. By the end of high school I had not only research experience, but also the confidence to speak to audiences of all ages about birds and conservation and the tools necessary to write grants, engage politicians, and build networks.

I cannot emphasize enough how important the OYBC has been for my professional career. Because of my research experiences in high school I received paid positions researching birds every year of undergrad, an opportunity none of my peers were given. I built upon my outreach training, running programs at local libraries, Audubon clubs, and Girl Scouts' meetings, eventually earning a full-ride science communication scholarship for the last two years of my undergraduate studies.

I am currently finishing a Master's degree with the support of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship—an award that I earned, in part, with a cover letter that detailed my experiences with the OYBC and my potential to build those experiences into a research and outreach career. In the last year I have run education programs at zoos, appeared on television and radio to talk about science and conservation, been featured in newspaper and magazine articles about birds, helped start a science education blog, and designed outreach programs for young female students.

I owe my confidence as a birder, student, educator, and scientist to the encouragement I received and empowerment I experienced as an active OYBC member.

I firmly believe that without the support and opportunities provided by the OYBC I would not have become the scientist that I am today. Please consider providing the Ohio Young Birders Club with the funding it needs to support, educate, and launch the careers of many more young professionals like me.

Sincerely,
Sarah Winnicki
Master's Student
Kansas State University



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

COASTAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

I am writing today in enthusiastic support of the Ohio Young Birder's Club. As one of the founding members, when I was 14 years old, I can attest to the profound impact that it has had on my life, my career and the lives of many of my peers. I would not have a PhD today, or be working on the project I am apart of, without the skills, and network that I gained through my participation in the OYBC.

I grew up in rural Ohio, just outside of Fremont, the daughter of an auto mechanic. By that information alone, my likelihood of graduating college, much less getting into a fully funded PhD program would have been nil. Thanks to the OYBC and the he skills that I gained in leadership and ornithology I was able to stand out from the crowd at every turn.

As a teenager one of the most powerful things about the OYBC, which is something I did not fully appreciate till later, was that we, the youth, were in charge of the organization. It was not created for us but by us. It was my friend Phil's idea to have an annual conference where the teenagers gave the talks, we were the ones who came up with the ideas for the field trips, and who helped design the newsletter. This helped me develop leadership skills and confidence to expression my opinions and listen to the opinions of others in a collaborative way. These experiences helped me land jobs in undergrad, including one as a supervisor at the age of 19, over people in their mid to late 20s, experience not normally given to second year undergraduate students because I had the ability to mediate issues, evaluate risks and make decisions.

Being able to supervise people as an undergrad helped me land my PhD position where I ran a large multi-agency research project for 5 years, which was vital experience in landing my current job coordinating the Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network, a collaborative group of 45 organizations and over 200 people.

Of the OYBC founding members, four of the six are involved in the scientific community as a career, and all of us continue as nature lovers in our free time. There is important value in the OYBC beyond its

powerful ability to enable young people from diverse backgrounds to start careers in science. Ohio and our country desperately need a public that values our natural communities and are invested in environmental health. This includes everyone, not just scientists. I firmly believe organizations like the OYBC are vital for fostering that appreciation and value in the lives of everyone, regardless of their chosen career path.

Having an appreciation of the natural world around them will help them lead healthier and more fulfilling lives. These benefits aren't just restricted to the members of the OYBC, but also their families and friends, who can learn from their excitement and passion. My family and friends pay more attention to birds and have changed small parts of their life style choices in response to my experiences in the OYBC, and I am sure I am not an anomaly.

Presenting at the Ohio Young Birder's Club Conferences shaped the way I give presentations and share my passion. Speaking to a room of people my own age allowed me to share my excitement as well as my science. This is a habit I continue now, even in rooms of stuffy scientists (I was told at two international conferences recently that I was the most exciting presenter they saw all week). Having those experiences gave me the confidence to present my undergraduate research at regional and national conferences earlier in my undergraduate career than my peers.

Ornithology has a long history of non-scientists making vital contributions to the field, and the work and passion displayed by OYBC members at the annual conference is a constant testament to this and prepares each presenter well for whatever career they pursue by reinforcing their excitement and ability to talk about a topic like a professional.

The OYBC treats its young people like peers, like valuable members of a community, not like children, and that is vitally important. The mentorship and community of the OYBC has been a vital part of my life for over a decade now. It is a community from which I continue to draw support and

encouragement, even as a now 28 year old with a PhD.

The teenage years can be tough for anyone, and finding peers at your school who are also interested in the natural world is difficult. The OYBC provided a vital community to help foster and encourage young people who might have lost interest for lack of likeminded friends. I know this community was key for me, it helped me grow my interest, expand it beyond birds and understand the place of birds and birding within the larger world and community.

The people I met through the OYBC, both my peers and mentors have helped encourage me to continue with my passion in science, provided me with support and resources to have the confidence to pursue my dreams. The OYBC has been my second family, the one that always understands my passion and excitement for the natural world, even when my biological family did not. It has challenged me and helped me grow and supported me from near and far. They held me through personal loss and celebrated with me through many great triumphs.

The power of this community for young people cannot be stated enough, it empowers young people, inspires the adults who work with them and helps create a brighter future for Ohio and our country.

Auriel M.V. Fournier, PhD
Ohio Young Birder's Club
Founding Member
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Mississippi State University
Coastal Research and Extension

The spring 2018 data is still being compiled, but we can look at the preliminary data from our main banding station, Navarre Marsh. Our banding totals at Navarre Marsh this spring were 6,971 individuals, which is well below the average number of birds banded each spring (7,800 individuals). We average more than 1,000 recaptures in a spring season, but this year we only had about 500 recaptures. This indicates below-normal bird activity and stopover, which could have been dictated by the strange spring weather. While details of this season need to be analyzed (especially age ratios), it appears the cold start to the spring weather may have held up short-distance migrants resulting in above-normal numbers coming through in fewer days. Thus, a lower volume of birds banded at the station during that timespan. Once they received favorable weather, neotropical migrants were in catch-up mode resulting in lower volume at the station. They were able to continue their journey north to their breeding grounds without stopping. High water levels in the marsh could explain the more traditional "wetland" species being captured.

We banded record spring numbers in Eastern Phoebe, Fox Sparrow, and Prothonotary Warbler and considerably more Song Sparrow, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Brown Creeper, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. This is in contrast to significantly fewer Blackpoll Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Veery, Northern Waterthrush, Canada Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, and Gray Catbird compared to other years. Exceptionally low numbers were noted for Swamp Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, and Philadelphia Vireo. An

exciting highlight was the capture of a Lawrence's Warbler in May, only the second for the station. Additional highlights this spring include the capture of two Belted Kingfishers, Sora, Green Heron, American Kestrel, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Worm-eating Warbler.

BREEDING BIRD RESEARCH

The BSBO MAPS Station completed its second season in 2018. While contributing to the continent-wide Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival (MAPS), this study site will be documenting the avian community and any changes as the area matures through scrub-shrub to mature Black Swamp Forest. Three hundred sixteen new birds (25 species) were captured. The major species captured were Yellow Warbler (118), Gray Catbird (79), Willow Flycatcher (18), Red-winged Blackbird (11), Cedar Waxwing (11), and Common Yellowthroat (11). Highlights included American Woodcock (3) and American Redstart.

Oak Openings completed its 26-year mark at the Ostrich Lane site. A prime objective at this site is to monitor changes as the area recovers from the 2010 tornadoes.

This area had 235 new birds captured (34 species), along with a previously banded Red-headed Woodpecker. Dominant species banded were Gray Catbird (48), Field Sparrow (34), House Wren (31), American Goldfinch (17), and Common Yellowthroat (14). Highlights included a migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Lark Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Yellow-throated Vireo (only one banded previously), and Blue-winged Warbler. This was by far the largest capture of Gray Catbirds since the project started. Common Yellowthroat has been increasing since 2015 with double-digit captures each year.

L to R: Golden-winged Warbler, Lawrence's Warbler, and Blue-winged Warbler.





2018 MAPS STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

316 birds 25 species

Yellow Warbler	118
Gray Catbird	79
Willow Flycatcher	18
Red-winged Blackbird	11
Cedar Waxwing	11
Common Yellowthroat	11

Oak Openings Metropark

235 birds 34 species

Gray Catbird	48
Field Sparrow	34
House Wren	31
American Goldfinch	17
Common Yellowthroat	14

With special thanks to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Winous Point Marsh Conservancy, and Metroparks Toledo for their support of BSBO's research!

Support BSBO's research by Sponsoring a Mist Net!

The songbird migration monitoring research conducted by BSBO has documented the timing of spring and fall migration in the Lake Erie Marsh region and has identified the importance of this region for migrating birds. At \$75 per net, mist nets are our biggest research expense. These nets are a vital tool in our bird banding projects. You can help continue this valuable monitoring project by sponsoring a mist net! To sponsor a mist net, visit our secure website at bsbo.org/sponsor-a-mist-net or by mailing a check to the address on the back cover!

BSBO Initiates Blackpoll Warbler Working Group

With the goal of improving the accuracy of major reports on population trends of many birds, BSBO initiated the formation of a Blackpoll Warbler working group. Our goal is to convince authors of these studies to include migration data with the Breeding Bird Survey data currently used to determine population trends. Since BSBO bands more Blackpolls than any other research station, we are using this species as the flagship species for this initiative.

The Western Basin of Lake Erie may be one of the most important staging areas in North America for this species as our banding totals far out-pace other parts of the country. There is also some discussion that Lake Erie maybe a jumping off place for Blackpolls to start their trans-Atlantic flight to South America with the mass our research documents each fall.

Magee Marsh Road NOW OPEN!

Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW) has announced that the barricade to the Magee entrance road was removed late Friday, October 5. The bridges are complete and ODOW will return to their normal controlled hunt schedule. Access to the boardwalk will be available after 3PM on Saturdays and all day Sunday on select weekends. Please review the calendars for the controlled hunt schedule available on the BSBO website at www.bsbo.org/mageehunt. On the days the road is closed for hunting access will be available to the Bird Center, but not to the boardwalk.



Cold weather will be here soon! What better way to sip your bird-friendly coffee, hot chocolate, or hot cider and watch birds than in a Black Swamp Bird Observatory coffee mug?!

Right now we have Black Swamp Bird Observatory and Biggest Week In American Birding coffee mugs as well as a stainless steel Black Swamp Bird Observatory travel coffee cup in stock.

The Nature Store also has Biggest Week In American Birding merchandise, books, and we're stocking up on lots of new holiday gift items. And don't forget our Window on Wildlife!

Visit bsbo.org to see photos of store merchandise or stop in and see us. We are located at 13551 W. SR 2, Oak Harbor, just inside Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Nature Store hours for autumn are Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday 11AM—4PM.



<< The U.S. Department of the Interior Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is now available! Stamps can be purchased at the BSBO Nature Store or online @ bsbo.org/conservation-stamps

AUTUMN NATURE STORE HOURS
11AM—4PM
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY

While shopping with Amazon or at Kroger, please consider donating to BSBO through AmazonSmile or Kroger Community Rewards!

Many thanks to all of the members who already have made BSBO the recipient of donations through their AmazonSmile or Kroger Rewards accounts. For more information visit bsbo.org!

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- A new Dell laptop for our education department
- LCD projector HD (1920 x 1080), 40000:1 contrast, 2200 lumens
- Mist nets for our songbird research
- Ink cartridges for our printers
- Bird Food: Sunflower Seeds, Thistle Seeds, Suet Cakes

RETAIL GIFT CARDS

- Staples or OfficeMax
- Lowe's or Home Depot
- Gas Cards for the BSBO Bird Bus

Please call us if you're willing to help with any of these items! 419-898-4070

Thank you to our Passerine Research Technician, Alex Eberts, for hosting this birthday fundraiser for Black Swamp Bird Observatory! Alex's Facebook friends more than DOUBLED his original goal of \$300!!

BSBO has received more than \$2,000 from Facebook birthday and special event fundraisers this year!

To learn more, contact Communications Director Jasmine Cupp at 419-898-4070 or jasminecupp@bsbo.org ext. 200!



LOOKING FOR AN EASY WAY TO HELP US HELP THE BIRDS? HOST A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER FOR BSBO!



Alex's Birthday Fundraiser for Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Fundraiser for Black Swamp Bird Observatory by Alex Eberts

For my birthday this year, I'm asking for donations to Black Swamp Bird Observatory. I've chosen BSBO because of... [Continue Reading](#)

\$620 raised of \$300

Ended

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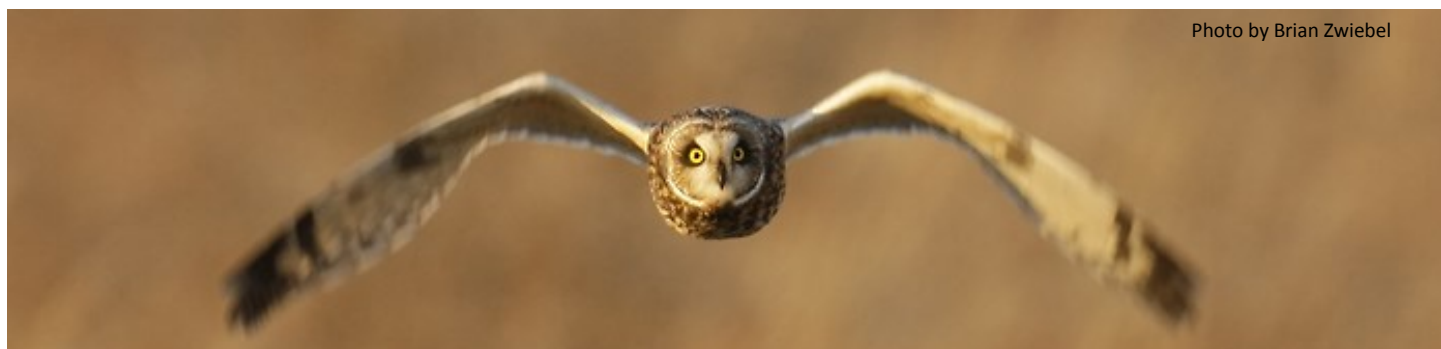


Photo by Brian Zwiebel

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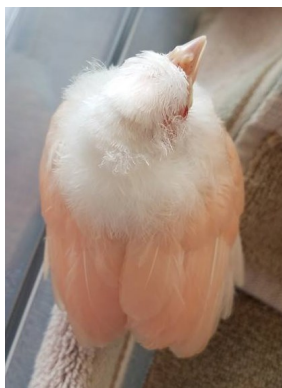
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At the end of August, our friends at Nature's Nursery, in Whitehouse, Ohio, took in this albino Northern Cardinal! The two photos on the left are from the day they took it in as a fledgling. The photo on the far right is a more recent photo of this bizarre yet beautiful bird showing what it will look like as it becomes an adult.



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**Please contact Kimberly
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**All donations and memberships recorded as of August 31, 2018*

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A special thanks to Tom & Paula Bartlett for their dedication to
Black Swamp Bird Observatory, birds, and education!
Next year marks the 25th year for Bartlett's Big Sit!

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There were also 66 raffle entries at BSBO's Biggest Week In American Birding that went towards the Conservation Fund!

2018 Conservation Fund Recipient Standing Rush, LLC

For the second consecutive year, Standing Rush has been voted as the Conservation Fund recipient by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory staff and Conservation Committee members.

Standing Rush is working on the restoration of over 600 acres of land and water located on the south shore of Sandusky Bay; encouraging habitat for everything from visiting warblers and shorebirds to nesting eagles and swans, Standing Rush can also manage for the rich native plant diversity that provides nursery habitat for loads of different kinds of fish and the right conditions for threatened species of snakes and turtles.

Standing Rush manager Eric Kraus refers to the area as a patchwork of land. Kraus explains that the land and water can support a tremendous diversity of life while serving critical functions for all the people who live and rely on the broader health of the lake.

For more information on the Biggest Week Conservation Fund, visit bwiab.com!



Black Swamp Bird Observatory

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

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- ☐ Yes, I want to conserve trees and expense; sign me up for electronic delivery of the BSBO quarterly newsletter.
☐ Yes, I have included BSBO in my will and/or estate planning.

\$ _____ 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)
___ \$25 Individual Senior (60 +)
___ \$35 Individual
___ \$40 Family
___ \$100 Supporting
___ \$250 Friends
___ \$500 Sustaining

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