



BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY



# BSBO NEWS



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WINTER/SPRING 2014

### 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.

May:  
We are open everyday in  
May from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

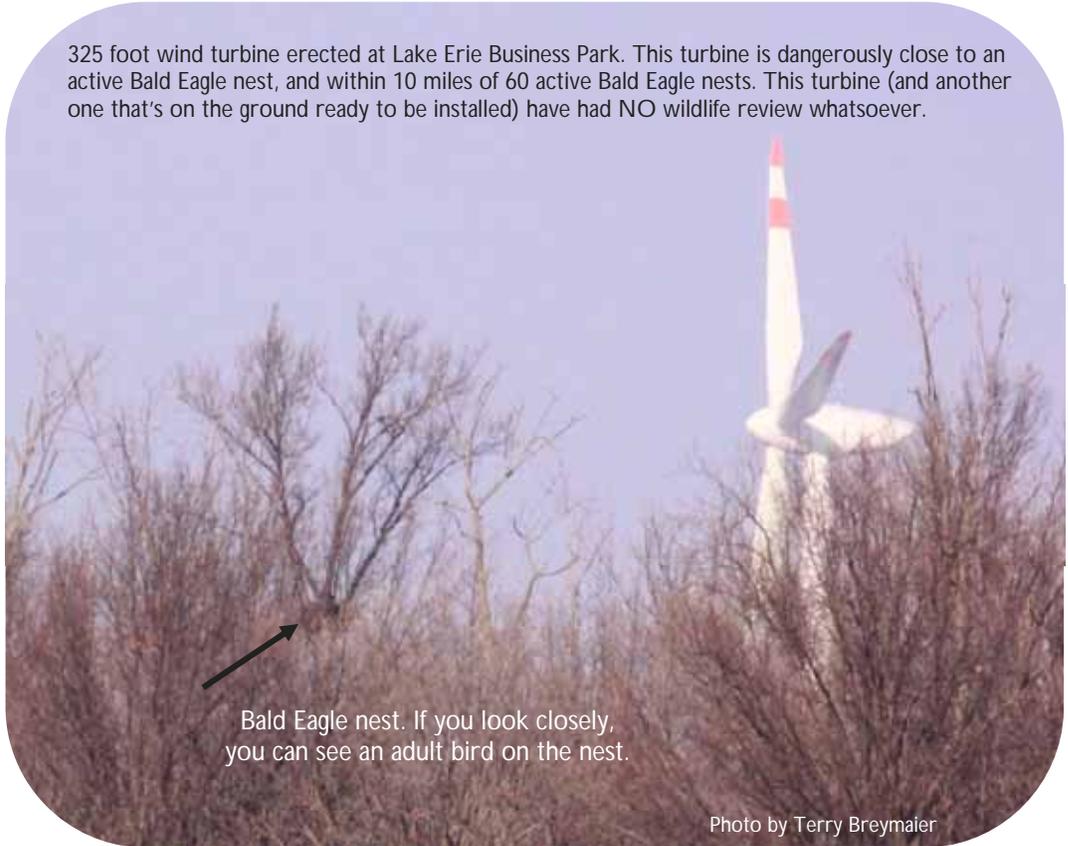
419 898-4070

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## A VICTORY FOR THE BIRDS: CAMP PERRY WIND TURBINE HALTED

325 foot wind turbine erected at Lake Erie Business Park. This turbine is dangerously close to an active Bald Eagle nest, and within 10 miles of 60 active Bald Eagle nests. This turbine (and another one that's on the ground ready to be installed) have had NO wildlife review whatsoever.



Bald Eagle nest. If you look closely, you can see an adult bird on the nest.

Photo by Terry Breymaier

## Focus now turns to turbines that threaten birds at nearby Lake Erie Business Park.

See Page 10 for more information about this issue.



## HELP CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF TOMBARTLETT'S BIG SIT FOR BSBO EDUCATION!

See Page 3 for more information.

## Black Swamp Bird Observatory

*Teaming Research with Education  
to Promote Bird Conservation*

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Outreach Specialist

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# From the Executive Director's Perch

Comfort Zones...

People have them, sure. But can an organization have a comfort zone? I think so.

At BSBO, we know an awful lot about migratory bird research and educating the public about birds, and we feel very comfortable working within those arenas. But comfort zones can be a blessing and a curse. On the one hand, we all need to have times in our life when we are unstressed and unchallenged, and it can be a real blessing to always work with what you know the best. But there are times when refusing to push beyond the boundaries of our comfort zone restricts our ability to deal with problems.

One perfect example involves our efforts to protect the critical bird habitat in the Western Basin of Lake Erie from poorly sited wind turbines. "FOIA," "EA," "FONSI," "EIS"...not so long ago, I might not have been able to tell you what these acronyms stood for. But I certainly can now, and I've learned that Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are important things to know if you're going to be an effective bird conservation leader in this day and age.

Everyone at BSBO has stepped up to the plate and out of their comfort zones to support the Responsible Wind Energy effort. And as you can see from our cover page announcement and the story on page 10, we were successful in halting the Camp Perry wind turbine project. Working outside your comfort zone can be stressful, frustrating, and even a little scary at times. But it can also bring about the change we wish to see. And the birds are worth it.

And speaking of birds, we should realize that birds have comfort zones, too. But unlike humans, it is not a good idea to push birds outside these zones, beyond the areas of habitat that they rely on during their arduous migration journeys. Preferred habitat is critical to the survival of birds, and when we alter or compromise these areas of habitat and push birds beyond their "comfort zones," measuring the impact can be a challenge. But if a warbler, or a shorebird, or a duck is forced to travel ever farther in search of areas to rest and refuel during migration, over time, that too can impact the populations of birds. And this is especially important when we consider the less adaptable species.

Protecting these areas is not merely in the best interests of the birds. It is good for the entire ecosystem and for our own quality of life. We cannot lose sight of the fact that the human race is connected to all living things. What is bad for the birds is ultimately bad for people, too.

Thinking Outside the Box...

Another example of battering down the walls of our comfort zone is highlighted on page 9. Politics-even on a state level-is definitely outside our comfort zone. But during my time on the Ottawa County Visitors' Bureau Board, I had the opportunity to participate in "Fish Ohio Day." Fish Ohio Day is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and it focuses a lot of attention on the economic value of sport fishing in Ohio. Many elected officials attend, including the Governor, and it brings tremendous media and political focus to just how valuable natural resources are to the great State of Ohio. After attending my first Fish Ohio event, I thought to myself, "We need a BIRD Ohio Day," but with everything else on BSBO's plate, the idea got back-burnered. And then I met Matt Collins during the 2012 Biggest Week In American Birding. Matt was familiar with Fish Ohio Day. He works at the Statehouse in Columbus, and since so many elected officials attend Fish Ohio Day, he was



familiar with the format. He asked me if I'd ever considered a Bird Ohio Day, and it refueled the idea in my mind.

Matt and I did some research and discovered that the state of Illinois had passed an actual resolution declaring an official Bird Watching Day in the state. And so, a team of BSBO staff and board worked together and set about to write a Bird Ohio Day Resolution. *Talk about thinking outside the box and working outside your comfort zone in order to help promote your cause!* Well, let's suffice it to say, IT WORKED! And you can read more about the inaugural BIRD OHIO DAY on page 9 in this issue of *BSBO News!*

I challenge you to push the limits of your own comfort zone when it comes to helping birds. One simple way to do that is to learn more than just the names and identification of birds. Taking a few moments to research the habitat requirements of even a few species a month will give you a whole new level of appreciation for just how remarkable birds really are, and it will open your eyes to the ever-present need to protect and conserve habitat for migratory birds - in all stages of their life cycle.

Working outside your comfort zone—especially when the stakes are so high for birds—can seem daunting. And the results aren't always what we hope for. But when your efforts meet with success, there's no greater feeling in the world.

Yours in bird conservation,



**HELP CELEBRATE THE  
20TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF TOM BARTLETT'S  
BIG SIT FOR EDUCATION!**

**IT'S A FUNDRAISER  
THAT'S BECOME A  
20 YEAR TRADITION!**

May 10, 2014, is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) and the 20th anniversary of Tom Bartlett's BIG SIT for BSBO! We hope you'll make your pledge of support to help raise money for BSBO's education programs and help us show Tom how much his efforts mean to us!

**HOW WE USE  
YOUR BIG SIT  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

All proceeds from the BIG SIT benefit BSBO's youth education programs. Because of your past BIG SIT contributions, these programs are able to reach thousands of students each year.

**WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR  
A LETTER AND PLEDGE  
FORM, COMING SOON!**

**OR, MAKE YOUR  
DONATION NOW AT  
[WWW.BSBO.ORG](http://WWW.BSBO.ORG)**

**SAVE TREES.  
SAVE MONEY.  
HELP BSBO HELP  
THE BIRDS.**

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electronic delivery of  
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Visit [www.bsbo.org/  
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### CALLING ALL BIGGEST WEEK VOLUNTEERS!

Consider volunteering with us in one or more of the following areas, for two or more shifts, during the Biggest Week In American Birding.

Email [biggestweek@bsbo.org](mailto:biggestweek@bsbo.org) or call 419-898-4070 to sign up as a volunteer!

#### Volunteers will receive the following:

- Free general registration (a \$35 value!)
- Festival t-shirt
- Bag of festival goodies
- Our heartfelt thanks for your help!
- And if you are a BSBO member, you will receive an additional 10% off the balance of your festival order.

#### Tasks we need help with:

- **Registration Packet Assembly at Maumee Bay Lodge**  
*Collating materials for packet assembly*
- **Manning the Info Table at BSBO**  
*Passing out maps and answering area questions*
- **Festival Registration Desk at Maumee Bay Lodge**  
*Greeting participants, answering general questions, and passing out badges and packets*
- **Program Room Monitors at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge or Maumee Bay Lodge**  
*Checking participants in, collecting money for walk-ins, and introducing the speaker*
- **Tent Sales & Book Signings at the Magee Marsh Boardwalk on IMBD (May 10<sup>th</sup>)**  
*Answering general questions and selling BSBO merchandise*
- **Bus Drivers for Bus Trips**  
*If you are interested in driving one of the buses, please contact Rob Ripma at [biggestweek@bsbo.org](mailto:biggestweek@bsbo.org)*

*Thanks to all of our past volunteers for helping make the festival possible!*

# BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING



We are pleased to welcome ZEISS as our 2014 Kirtland's Warbler Level Sponsor and the Official Optics of the Biggest Week!

## BIGGEST WEEK SUPPORTS HABITAT CONSERVATION

### A little GREEN can save the GOLD!



This year, American Bird Conservancy and Black Swamp Bird Observatory are partnering to step up the focus on conservation during the Biggest Week in American Birding. We are encouraging all Biggest Week participants to contribute to the Save the Golden-Wing Project to offset their travel carbon footprint—and support creation of a habitat corridor in Nicaragua for overwintering Golden-winged Warblers. With a minimum suggested donation of \$10, a little green can help save the GOLD!

We all know that the Golden-winged Warbler is in trouble. The species is one of the fastest-declining birds in the Americas. But you can help. Your donation will enable American Bird Conservancy and its partners to advance reforestation work in the El Jaguar Private Reserve, one of the most important sites for the warbler on its wintering grounds. The project will provide native tree saplings to coffee farmers, helping them to move from conventional to shade-grown coffee and creating new habitat for warblers and other birds. Donations to Save the Golden-Wing project will also support community outreach programs aimed at improving bird habitat and help to stabilize watersheds for sustainable farming.

Anyone can donate by visiting the Biggest Week registration table at Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center from May 5 - 15 or by visiting the American Bird Conservancy website at: [www.ababirds.org](http://www.ababirds.org)

## BIGGEST WEEK SUPPORTS BOARDWALK REPAIRS



The Friends of Magee Marsh (FOMM) is engaged in a fundraising effort to renovate the famous Magee Marsh Boardwalk and BSBO and The Biggest Week are helping!

The Boardwalk is 25 years old and falling into disrepair. The Friends of Magee Marsh is conducting a campaign to raise \$300,000 to refurbish the boardwalk. These funds will pay to replace the decking and rails, stabilize the tower, and make other improvements to ensure the boardwalk remains open to the public.

The Friends group has given \$25,000 to get the project started. Phase One is underway and will be complete by April 1st. All work will then stop during peak migration. Phase Two will commence June 1st. During the renovation, most of the boardwalk will remain accessible.

To make a donation, visit: [www.facebook.com/friendsofmageemarsh](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofmageemarsh)

During the festival, we will be hosting fundraisers and 100% of the proceeds will be given to Friends of Magee Marsh to support their efforts. We will be raffling off a ZEISS binocular and including the boardwalk donation envelopes in every Biggest Week registration packets.

More information at [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com)



### BLACK SWAMP BIRDS & BUSINESS ALLIANCE

*We encourage you to patronize these establishments that support the Observatory. Please tell them that BSBO referred you and thank them for their support.*

America's Best Value Inn  
Barnside Creamery  
Bassett's Market  
Bench Farms (SR-2)  
Benchmark Prints  
Birding Africa  
BirdWatching Magazine  
Birds and Beans Coffee  
Birds & Blooms Magazine  
Blackberry Corner Tavern  
Brian Zwiebel Photography  
BRANT  
Camp Sabroske  
Cheepers, Birding on a Budget  
Common Grounds Coffee & Deli  
Crazy Lady Saloon  
DotNet Technology  
Eagle Optics  
Eagle's Nest Sweet Retreat  
Five Bells Inn  
Great Lakes Popcorn Co.  
Greg Miller Birding  
Jack's Superette  
J. Conklin Consulting  
Jet Express  
Jordan Specialty Advertising  
Holiday Inn Express - Oregon  
Kaufman Field Guides  
Kokomo Bay Restaurant  
Kowa Optics  
Kozy Corners  
Leica Optics  
Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center  
Maumee Bay General Store  
McKenna's Inn  
Miller Boat Line  
Minuteman Press  
McCarthy's Restaurant & Pub  
Naturally Avian  
New Directions Technology  
Ohio Telecom  
Oregon Inn  
Our Guest Inn & Suites  
Our Sunset Place B & B  
Sabrewing Nature Tours  
Swarovski Optik USA  
The Island House Resort  
Time & Optics, Ltd.  
Toledo Mud Hens  
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours  
Victorian Inn B & B  
Wild Birds Unlimited - Toledo  
Wildside Nature Tours  
Zeiss Optics

## TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS... IN FINE FEATHER: BIRDS, ART & SCIENCE

April 25-July 6, 2014  
Gallery 18

Coinciding with the Biggest Week in American Birding, In Fine Feather highlights the intersection of natural science and art in the pursuit of describing and identifying birds, from a medieval treatise on falconry to John James Audubon's Birds of America to the modern field guide. The exhibition features works by noted bird artists and illustrators including Audubon, Alexander Wilson, John Gould and Roger Tory Peterson. Free admission.



# RESEARCH UPDATE: FALL 2013 BY MARK SHIELDCASTLE



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

## **ADOPT A MIST NET**

**BSBO's songbird banding  
research would not  
be possible without  
expensive mist nets.  
For just \$70 you can Adopt  
A Mist Net and help  
support our research.  
To adopt a net, please call  
419-898-4070, or visit our  
secure website at:  
[bsbobird.org](http://bsbobird.org)**

**Thanks for helping  
us help the birds!**

### **Passerines:**

The Navarre Marsh banding station was unfortunately closed for 16 days during the government shutdown during the fall of 2013. In spite of the shutdown, we had record numbers of several species. These species include Tennessee Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. The number of migrating Myrtle Warblers that use this area as a migration stopover increases rapidly during the month of September. One day in late September, we caught the station's first ever Audubon Warbler! To our surprise in late October, we caught the station's first ever Western Wood Pewee! The Western Wood Pewee was keyed out using the most updated banding literature. We are waiting for the confirmation of the species based on DNA testing.

The Creek Bend banding station is located 20 miles inland, south of the western basin of Lake Erie, compared to the Navarre banding station which is located on the southern edge of the western basin of Lake Erie. The banding data recorded at Creek Bend along with other sister banding stations, such as Shaker Lakes and Petersburg, is used to determine what species use habitat along the lake edge compared to inland sites during spring and fall migration.

The volume of birds using the area around Creek Bend banding station during the fall migration is astounding. This illustrates the importance of inland stopover sites during the fall migration for many bird species in Northwest Ohio. A rare Northern Shrike was caught and banded at Creek Bend in late October 2013 demonstrating once again how this unbelievably important fall migration site continues to surprise. The small stream corridor that makes up Creek Bend Sandusky County Park is rapidly changing the way we look at migration in relation to Lake Erie. The extensive use in fall, as opposed to very little movement in the spring, highlights how the birds view their world and how different it may be from our viewpoint.

In late September 2013, three birds not originally banded at Creek Bend banding station were captured. All three birds were originally banded at BSBO's Navarre Marsh banding station. One of these birds, an Indigo Bunting, broke the known longevity record for the species! Banding records confirm that this is a 13 year old Indigo Bunting who was originally banded in May 2001.

Our other sites were able to work through October and they with Creek Bend will assist in our analysis of this interrupted fall season. Our Shaker Lakes banding station showed normal activity and two highlights included a Belted Kingfisher and Connecticut Warbler. The Petersburg banding station added Yellow-throated Vireo to its species list!

### **Shorebird Surveys:**

We did not observe the average shorebird numbers in 2013 due to the heavy summer rains. These heavy rains flooded most of the suitable shorebird foraging habitat for the season. We did manage to record 34 species of shorebird in the region during the fall season and 36 species overall for the year. Killdeer were the most commonly reported species.

### **Butterfly surveys:**

Butterfly surveys for 2013 indicated a year of low numbers. Between spring cold snaps and summer rains, numbers were well below average at all survey sites. Sadly, Monarchs were practically absent in our surveys. This seemed to be the trend in other parts of the Midwest as well.

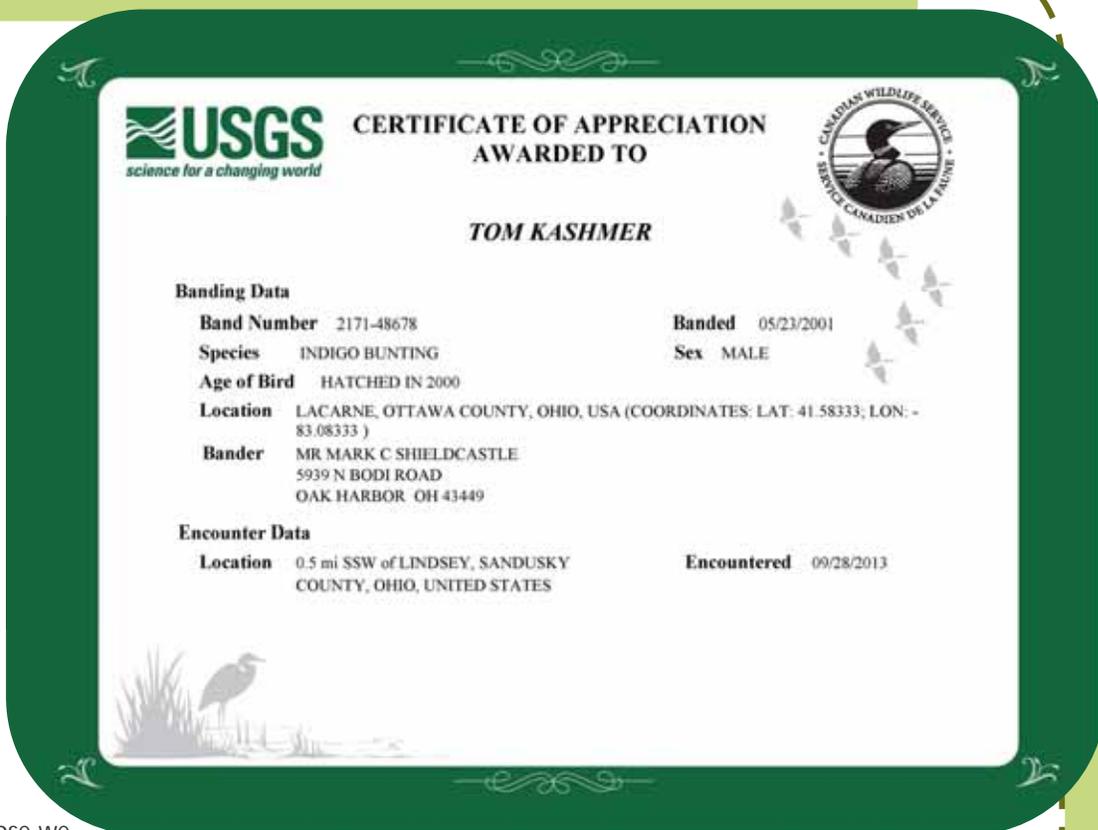


ALL INDIGO BUNTINGS ARE SPECIAL, BUT HERE'S ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS!

The BSBO research team recently established a new national longevity record for Indigo Bunting with banding records confirming a 13 year old individual!

First banded as a Second-Year (SY) male on May 23, 2001 at BSBO's Navarre Marsh banding station, the bird was recaptured by another BSBO research crew at our Creek Bend banding station (about 20 miles SW of Navarre station) on September 28, 2013. According to the Bird Banding Lab, the previous longevity record was a nine year old Indigo Bunting.

We still have so much to learn about birds - even those we think we know well. Banding continues to be a valuable tool in expanding our knowledge and improving our ability to conserve the habitat birds rely on for their survival.



**Your Birding Equipment Checklist:**

- ✓ *Binoculars*
- ✓ *Field Guide*
- ✓ *Scope*
- ✓ *Camera*
- ✓ *Cell phone*
- ✓ *Migratory Bird Stamp?*



**Yes!** Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps have helped fund the acquisition of over 5.5 million acres of habitat for our Refuge System. These areas are almost always open to birding and provide homes for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, and other species.



Black Swamp Bird Observatory is proud to promote and sell the Migratory Bird Stamp!  
Buy your stamp at [www.bsbo.org](http://www.bsbo.org) or by calling 419-898-4070

This is a Public Service Announcement in Support of the Stamp

Federal Duck Stamps Make **WONDERFUL** gifts!



# OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB NEWS



**Ohio Young Birders Club**  
FOUNDED IN 2006 BY BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY

## OYBC forms New Northeast Chapter in Cleveland, Ohio

We are excited to announce the partnership between Black Swamp Bird Observatory and Cleveland Metroparks! An informational meeting was held at Rocky River Nature Center in early January 2014. We had a great turn out of interested families with young birders from the Cleveland area. The NE Chapter membership keeps growing as the word gets out about this awesome new chapter for young birders! The NE Chapter has gone on several field trips over the past three months. Young birders have searched for waterfowl and gulls along the Cleveland shoreline, explored Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area for wintering raptors, and observed the migrating waterfowl at Mosquito Creek and Grand River Wildlife Area.



Young birders in the newly formed OYBC NE Chapter enjoying a cold but sunny day birding along Lake Erie in January 2014.

Check out the OYBC website for more pictures and birding adventures from all of our OYBC Chapters!

[www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)

**The support from our BSBO members make these opportunities possible for our young birders.**

**THANK YOU!**

## OYBC STUDENTS IN ACTION!

Donate today to help support our John Gallagher Memorial OYBC Scholarship Fund!

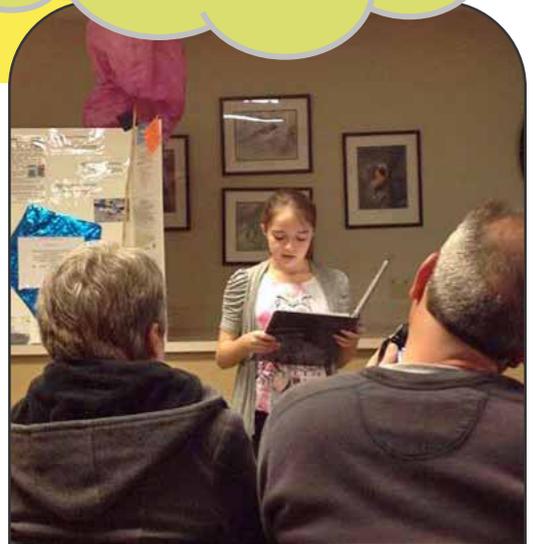
[ohioyoungbirders.org](http://ohioyoungbirders.org)



Recently Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) member, 11 year old Delaney Hayes, gave an outstanding 30 minute presentation on the negative impacts of balloon releases (mass littering events) to the Toledo Naturalists' Association (TNA).

Delaney explained that both latex and mylar balloons are not biodegradable. Often times balloons are falsely marketed as 100% biodegradable. She went on to describe the dangers of deflated balloons to wildlife and our ecosystem.

The OYBC strives to encourage, educate, and empower our youth conservation leaders of today. Delaney is a perfect example of a youth conservation leader in action!



Delaney Hayes, an OYBC NW Chapter member, discusses the negative impacts of balloon releases to the Toledo Naturalists' Association (TNA).

*The OYBC helps to develop a network of peers, indeed a sense of community, that fosters the self-confidence and interpersonal communication skills that will enhance the careers of members regardless of chosen field.*

## CONGRATULATIONS to the ABA Young Birder of the Year Winners



The ABA recently announced the winners of their 2014 Young Birder of the Year contest, and we want to congratulate the OYBC members who were among them! Elijah Martineau won 2nd place in the 10-13 year old age group. His older sister, May Martineau, placed second in the Illustration Category for 14-18 year olds. And younger sister, Sariah Martineau, placed second in the Writing Category for 10-13 year olds. We are so proud that the Martineau family is part of the OYBC!

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

Help us encourage, educate, and empower our youth conservation leaders of today!

### **Become an OYBC Adult Supporter Today!**

For just \$20 a year, you can help support young birders throughout Ohio.

### **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
- \$750 – PEREGRINE FALCON
- \$500 – RED-TAILED HAWK
- \$250 – MERLIN
- \$100 – AMERICAN KESTREL

Visit

[www.ohioyoungbirders.org](http://www.ohioyoungbirders.org)  
for a sponsorship form,  
membership form,  
or contact BSBO  
at 419-898-4070  
to pay with credit card.

## BSBO and Senator Randy Gardner Team Up to Introduce the Inaugural Bird Ohio Day!

On March 20, 2014, the Bird Ohio Day resolution drafted by BSBO and sponsored by Senator Randy Gardner was approved by the Senate. The resolution designates May 10 as Bird Ohio Day to recognize the importance of bird and bird habitat stewardship. "Bird watching has become one of the most popular and economically significant forms of outdoor recreation in Ohio and throughout the United States," a resolution passed last month by the senate says. "Birding tourism contributes significantly to economic development in northwest Ohio. Thousands of birdwatchers from across the country and around the world visit Northwest Ohio and the southwest shore of Lake Erie each spring to witness the spectacle of bird migration and to participate in the Biggest Week in American Birding Festival organized by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory of Oak Harbor." Research by Bowling Green State University and the Observatory's own independent study includes estimates that visiting birdwatchers spend more than \$30 million in northern Ohio each spring.

According to the resolution, conservation and protection of bird habitats, has both aesthetic and economic benefit, including increased real estate values along nature preserves and land protected by conservation easements.

BSBO Executive Director Kimberly Kaufman has high hopes for the resolution. "The passage of the Bird Ohio Day resolution is a milestone for birding, habitat conservation, and economic development. This resolution and the celebration of each year will do much to raise awareness of the importance of birding to the economy and the value of conserving the habitat that this economic engine is built upon." said Kaufman. Kaufman also offered thanks to Senator Gardner for his tremendous support. "We are incredibly honored that Senator Gardner was willing to sponsor the resolution, and we offer our sincere appreciation to him and to his wonderful and supportive staff for helping to make our vision for Bird Ohio Day a reality,"

Other agencies and organizations that BSBO recognized in the resolution include Destination Toledo, Lake Erie Shores and Islands, Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, Erie Metroparks, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Columbus Audubon Society, Ohio Ornithological Society, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio park districts and zoos and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Senator Randy Gardner stated, "I am pleased to sponsor the Senate resolution recognizing May 10<sup>th</sup> as Bird Ohio Day. Birding is an important part of Ohio's strong and diverse travel and tourism economy, in addition to bringing great enjoyment to thousands of Ohioans and visitors to Ohio from all over the world."

## WIND ENERGY UPDATE: CAMP PERRY WIND TURBINE HALTED

Federal authorities in charge of the Camp Perry turbine, planned in a major migration route on the shores of Lake Erie, have withdrawn the project in light of opposition by BSBO, ABC, and the thousands who signed our petition. One of several wind turbine projects planned for the shores of Lake Erie, in one of the greatest bird migration corridors in the Western Hemisphere, has been halted following submission of a letter of intent to sue from American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO). The two groups had vigorously opposed the project due to its exceptionally high risk to federally protected wildlife.

The announcement formalizing the decision to halt the project was made via a letter from Air National Guard Headquarters—the National Guard Bureau, Department of Defense, in Andrews, Md.—to the public interest law firm Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal (MGC) of Washington, D.C., which represents ABC and BSBO.

The petition campaign and letter of intent to sue the Ohio National Guard (ONG), along with an ongoing petition campaign that has acquired over 5,000 signatures, charged that efforts in connection with the wind project at Camp Perry Air National Guard Station west of Port Clinton, Ohio, violate the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and other federal conservation and environmental laws.

The letter from the National Guard Bureau states: “After carefully considering your objections ... I have decided to withdraw the FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) for the project effective immediately. ... Since the FONSI has been withdrawn, the project will not go forward at this time.” The letter was dated Jan. 28 and was signed by Colonel Peter A. Sartori, Director, Installations and Mission Support.

**“The victory sends a strong message to other wind energy developers in this ecologically sensitive region that conservationists will be closely watching their actions.”**

“The victory sends a strong message to other wind energy developers in this ecologically sensitive region that conservationists will be closely watching their actions. This is a heartening outcome for the environment and for birds,” said Dr. Michael Hutchins, National Coordinator of ABC’s Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign. “While we support wind energy as a sustainable energy source, we insist that turbines be sited where their impacts to birds and other wildlife can be minimized. This project was among the worst we have seen in that regard. We applaud the government’s decision to reconsider this project.”

“We are absolutely elated that the Air National Guard has halted this project, at least temporarily and possibly for good,” said Kimberly Kaufman, Executive Director of BSBO. “We certainly owe thanks to the thousands who voiced their opposition to the project via the petition.”

### THE BATTLE TO PROTECT HABITAT ISN'T OVER...

With the Camp Perry wind turbine project off the table, BSBO and American Bird Conservancy are now bringing national attention to the project at the Lake Erie Business Park, separated from Camp Perry only by a woodlot - where there's an active Bald Eagle nest. The photo (right) shows a Bald Eagle standing in the nest in the shadow of the 325 foot wind turbine at the business park.

In a February 26<sup>th</sup> letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, ABC and BSBO pointed out that this wind energy project is being built by the developer, SUREnergy, with no Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ever being conducted, and with no consultation whatsoever with any state or federal natural resource agency. ABC and BSBO are concerned that this project represents an even greater threat to our public trust resources than the turbine that was planned for Camp Perry, and encouraged the Service to look into this project in more detail, and take decisive action as appropriate.

The letter says further that if this poorly sited facility is being built in the absence of any EA, any permitting process, or any consultation with state or federal wildlife authorities, then it clearly represents another failure of the current voluntary permitting guidelines to protect our public trust resources. Whether on public or private land, our native birds and bats are not owned by the for-profit wind industry, but are owned by the American people and held in trust for current and future generations.



**Active Bald Eagle Nest**  
Photo by Terry Breymaeir



**For more information, visit [www.bsbo.org](http://www.bsbo.org)**

BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY

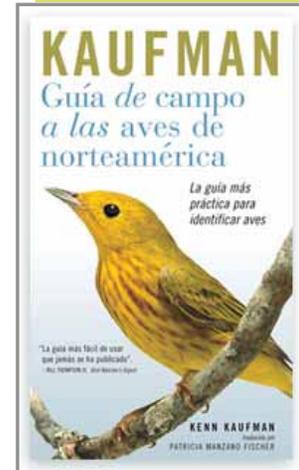
# DONATE THE GUIA PROGRAM

## Help BSBO Spread the Joy of Birding!

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 to be published in Spanish. Kenn's vision for *Guía 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. In today's world, our natural resources are facing countless threats. 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, including Sonoran Joint Venture, Connecting Cultures (a program of Environment for the Americas), and The Biggest Week In American Birding, 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](http://www.bsbo.org), 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!**

Right: This women's cooperative in Ejido Munihuaza, (near Alamos, Sonora) do spectacular embroidery work, mostly birds and wildlife. NCI México Reserva Monte Mojino, a partner of the Sonoran Joint Venture, is working closely with the cooperative on this project and recently brought them a copy of the GUIA to help them learn about the birds they are embroidering and improve their skills.

**For more inspirational stories on the Guia, please visit our Donate the Guia Facebook page!**



**DONATED  
GUIAS  
IN  
ACTION!**



Above: Students at the Ramon Corona elementary school in San Blas, Nayarit. They are learning to identify birds in their community.

Above: A monitoring team in Sinaloa receiving their new Kaufman GUIAS, thanks to your donations!

# WE'RE GONNA FLY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

## 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 look 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, which is scheduled in September for the 2014 season.

### 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 as our visitors make their way into Anna's room, waiting to hear the intake of breath, followed by the "ooohs & aaahs" as they see the scene before them through her window. Our bird feeders are kept full and clean by donations to Anna's Window on Wildlife fund.



With the record cold temperatures and snowfall in NW Ohio this winter, we have depleted our bird seed stash for Anna's Window on Wildlife. 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.bsbobird.org](http://www.bsbobird.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" on the check.

## THE BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING FEATURE VOLUNTEERS

Without the support of hundreds of volunteers, the Biggest Week would not be possible. This year, we offer special thanks to two volunteers who have taken on the monumental tasks of coordinating all of the speakers and arranging all of the field trips.

### KATIE ANDERSEN

#### Biggest Week Presentation / Workshop Coordinator

Katie Andersen went on her first birding hike at one week old and has been interested in birds ever since. A graduate of Gannon University with a B.S. in Biology, she studied Neotropical ornithology in Costa Rica and has worked on several research projects in Pennsylvania, including a study of the nesting habits of Black Terns. Katie works full time at Wild Birds Unlimited where she serves as the Store Naturalist, answering questions about bird biology, behavior, and identifying customers' mystery birds. She also works part time for Kaufman Field Guides, where she has developed a greater understanding for just how many fuzzy insects exist on this planet (a lot).



### ROB RIPMA

#### Biggest Week Field Trip Coordinator



Rob Ripma, a life-long Indiana resident, is owner and creator of [www.NuttyBirder.com](http://www.NuttyBirder.com), "the place to go to find birds". He is also a partner in Sabrewing Nature Tours leading birding and photography trips in the US and Central and South America. Rob is currently the Secretary of the Board for Ohio's Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO). Prior to joining the BSBO board, he served on the executive board of the Indiana Audubon Society for three years as Treasurer and Vice President. He is co-founder of the Indiana Young Birders Club. Rob loves working with new and experienced birders of all ages and believes that teaching people about birds will not only increase interest in birding but also help them better understand why we must work to protect birds and their habitats. Most recently, he has become the primary bird blogger for Birds & Blooms Magazine. Rob has travelled and birded extensively all around the US and has taken pelagic trips into the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He and his wife Stephanie in Carmel, Indiana.

# PROTECT BSBO'S FUTURE THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

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

You can support 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

**Consider supporting Black Swamp Bird Observatory and bird conservation as part of your legacy.**

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

## CONSIDER A CHARITABLE GIFT OF STOCK TO BSBO

Black Swamp Bird Observatory has an account with Edward Jones, 126 East 2nd Street, Port Clinton, Ohio, to assist you with your stock transfer gifts. Please call Kimberly Kaufman at 419-898-4070 for more information.

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

## BSBO WISH LIST

### EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

- A new Dell laptop for our education department
- Carl 15" Heavy Duty Rotary Trimmer
- LCD projector HD (1920 x 1080), 40000:1 contrast, 2200 lumens
- 30 Mist Nets for our Songbird Banding Project
- 8 foot Value-lite conference tables
- Black Oil Sunflower Seed, Thistle Seed, Suet Cakes for our Window on Wildlife
- HP LaserJet 05A Black Ink/Toner Cartridge

### RETAIL GIFT CARDS

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



## OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AUTO TOUR DATES

- January 18-19
- February 15-16
- March 15-16
- April 19-20
- May 2-18
- June 21-22
- July 19-20
- August 16-17
- September 20-21
- October TBD
- November TBD
- December 20-21

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## SUPPORTING

Stephanie Bower  
Cathleen Gibbons  
Judy Volin  
Alan Wells  
Robert Wolf

## FAMILY

Kimberly Batzer  
Dave Batzler  
Frank & Nancy Benham  
Marguerite Benko  
Karl Brandt  
John & Evelyn Conway  
Thea Lewis Conway  
Susan Cullinan  
Brian Cunningham  
Laura DiMeo  
Gerald & Carol Gillan  
Donald & Lucy Gonville  
Virginia Gonville  
Jonathan Gross  
Saul Grysman  
Travis Hails  
Cythina Hughes  
Debra Johnson  
Rachele Kappler

Erica Lanni  
Bonnie May  
Paul & Tonya McDougal  
Nancy Mulder  
Richard Myers  
Mark Rose  
Michelle Rowe  
Warren & Patricia Schattler  
Gary & Nan Wilson Stevens  
Nancy Sumner  
James & Ann Ellen Tuomey  
Cathy Uhrich  
John Velasquez  
Michael Vinarcik  
Brian Wargo  
Janet & John Weihrach  
Joshua Wengerd  
Joanna Willis  
Karen Worley

## INDIVIDUAL

Eileen Arnold  
Joyce Baker  
Kelly Ball  
Larry Bowdre  
Karl Brandt  
James Buckingham

William Buckingham  
Frank & Laurie Burns  
Ann Carrier  
Dale Castor  
Frances Cerbins  
Robert Coffin  
Bill Dashner  
Frank Dawson  
John Disterhoft  
David Egloff  
Marty Ehlers  
Sharon Ellard  
Elizabeth Fikejs  
Stephanie Floyd  
Christine Gilley  
Derek Goldingay  
Peter Hanan  
Mary Hill  
Lola Irvin  
Larry Johnson  
David Kagy  
Deborah King  
Mary Kinsley  
Jennifer Kuehn  
Patricia Langenhahn  
Lynne Martin  
Tom Merritt

Michael Nikora  
Pamela Oleson  
Ruthann Passalacqua  
Ted Pobud  
Tarrell Preston  
Barbara Quinlan  
Ann Ranlett  
Don & Joann Rhodes  
Linda Rockwell  
Jennifer Sander  
Janet Schaper  
Donna Schulman  
Katrina Schultes  
Robert Setzer  
Michelle Shinew  
Lisa Sinke  
Jessie St. Christopher  
Jerriann Sweeney  
Thomas Taylor  
Timothy Thompson  
Teresa Watson  
Tom Weisenburger  
Darrell Wilson  
Mary Woodruff  
Kurt Wray

\*As of February 28, 2014

**Thank you to all of our new members!**  
**If you have not renewed your BSBO membership for 2014, we hope you will.**  
**Our work depends on the support of our members like YOU.**

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Christopher Ake  
Stanley Applegate  
Joyce Baker  
Kelly Ball  
Elaine Barnum  
Allan & Anita Beach  
Dan Best  
Dale & Theresa Blue  
Robert Bochenek  
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James & Betty Breier  
Mary Buehler  
Nancy Christensen  
George Covintree Jr.  
Thomas & Andrea Crary  
Bill Dashner  
Amy Didion  
Laura DiMeo  
David Ditmer  
Eleanor & Chuck Dombrowski  
John Drew  
Tom Evans  
Elizabeth Fikejs  
Pat & Peg Finnegan  
Thomas Fishburn  
Herb Gabehart  
Lee & Jane Garling  
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Andrew Jones  
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Frank Knapke  
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Jeff & Debra Kreager  
Randy & Nancy Kreager  
Connie & Mickey Kress  
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Lisa Maynard  
Janet McLean  
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Frank Merritt  
Charles Michener  
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Ted & Jean Miller  
Mike & Margaret Minns  
Jane Mueller  
Luanne Armstrong & Jane Nebel  
Ed & Bev Neubauer  
Michael Nikora  
Paul Piorkowski  
William Pollock  
Dan & Lisby Pollock  
Frances Raskin  
Don & Joann Rhodes  
Kelly Riccetti  
Larry Rosche  
Allan Roush  
Barbara Rubinstein  
Bill & Diann Rucki  
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Carl Schoenfeld  
Kurt & Debbie Chroeder  
Katrina Schultes  
Ronald & Hollie Scott  
John & Betsy Searight  
Beulah Shanks  
Lisa Sharon  
Irwin & Melinda Simon  
Julia & Dan Smith

Gary Smith  
Eric & Kim Smith  
Karen Soubeyrand  
Elinor Spellerberg  
Frank Spilker  
William & Mary Kay Sullivan  
Jerriann Sweeney  
Bert Szabo  
Tom Tabatowski  
Kim Taylor  
David Teller  
Jessica Thorne  
Lawrence & Christy Virgin  
Karen Vizzi  
Dan & Patricia Voydanoff  
Lee Wallace  
Kisa Weeman  
David & Hope Welles  
Pat Whitesides & Don Bauman  
Helen Williams  
Brad Winke  
Norma & Lloyd Wygant  
Jody & Jerry Zamirovski  
Jim & Tracy Zervos

\*As of February 28, 2014

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

**In Memory of...**

**Ona M Krotzer**  
Lee & Jane Garling

**Jack Claar**  
Lee & Jane Garling

**Bill Sullivan**  
Margaret Sullivan

**Ruth Raymond**  
Jill & John Bowers  
Brent & Michele Miller  
Mark & Julie Shieldcastle

**Lucy Zach**

Maja Reed Consulting  
Andrew Jones  
Mary Gombash & Bud Crosby  
Mark & Julie Shieldcastle  
Richard Cheney  
Kevin Joyce  
Lee & Jane Garling  
Robert & Kathryn Agoston  
Delores Cole  
Jill & John Bowers  
Brent & Michele Miller  
Carla Miller

Tom & Nancy Davidson  
Charles & Marilyn Poore  
Michelle Richards  
Marcia Dempster  
Richard Hoffman  
Cindy Rowe  
John Sawvel  
Carol Fornia  
K. Drouillard  
Roberta & Ronald Borton

## ADOPT-A-MIST NET

Trudy Aleksander  
Candace D'Amour  
Jan Dixon  
Susan Haley  
Deborah Larsen  
David Lewis & Laurie Boylan

Lauren McDade  
Heather Ray  
Kelli Rule  
Pat Whitesides  
& Don Bauman

## EMPLOYER MATCH

- ◇ State Employees' Community Campaign
- ◇ General Electric (GE)

## GIFTS WE HAVE RECEIVED

- ◇ Wild Birds Unlimited: Bird Seed
- ◇ Kelly McKinne: 50 lbs. Morton Salt
- ◇ Randy Kreager: 8 ft x 5 ft Projector Screen
- ◇ Luckey Farmers: Two 50 lbs. Bags of Mixed Bird Seed
- ◇ Kevin Soncrant: 50 lbs. Black Oil Sunflower Seed
- ◇ Bob & Lynn Moyer: Silent Auction Items

**Black Swamp Bird Observatory**

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

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

*"Teaming Research with Education  
to Promote Bird Conservation"*

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Time to renew your  
BSBO Membership

**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 quarterly 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? \_\_\_\_\_

<< Consider BSBO in your will and estate planning. >>

- \_\_\_ \$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**