BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY

BSBO NEWS

WINTER/SPRING 2018

Or visit us online at...

In memory of Hallie Mason, Kent Glauser, and Michael Hutchins, conservation heroes who are gone, but never forgotten.

Photo by Kenn Kaufman

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Stop in and visit us!

BSBO Nature Store Hours:

April - September:
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & Monday from 11 AM - 5 PM

May:
We are open every day in May from 9 AM - 4:30 PM

2018 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp NOW AVAILABLE in the BSBO Nature Store or online at: bsbo.org/conservation-stamps

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Teaming Research with Education to Promote Bird Conservation

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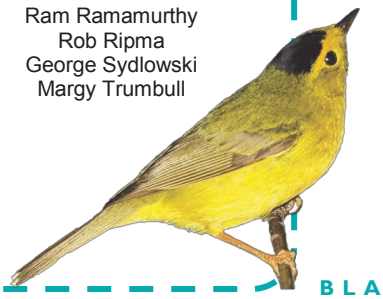


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERCH

Dear Friends,

At Black Swamp Bird Observatory, much of what we do focuses on the science of studying bird migration. But when you get right down to it, connecting people with birds is at the heart of BSBO's mission. Science is a cornerstone of our efforts, but there's a major element of joyfulness, too. People care most about the things they love, and the first step in getting them to support habitat conservation is to help them fall in love with birds.

BSBO helps make that happen for thousands of kids every year through our dynamic education programs. We see these connections happen right before our eyes in the look of joy and excitement on the faces of kids when they see a Blue Jay or a Yellow Warbler for the first time.

Last fall, we celebrated BSBO's 25th anniversary and we took some time to reflect on the past. With support from caring people like you, we've accomplished a lot of great things for birds. Here are just a few highlights:

- BSBO's shorebird surveys helped the Lake Erie Marsh Region earn Regional Status with the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The designation helps generate federal dollars for habitat restoration in the region.

- Data from BSBO's songbird migration studies have been used to develop the Lake Erie Management Plan and the Beneficial Wildlife Impairments section of the Clean Water Act.

- BSBO completed all the necessary requirements to designate the Western and Central Basins of Lake Erie as Globally Important Bird Areas, Ohio's first Global IBAs.

- BSBO has become a strong national voice for the protection of migratory bird habitat from poorly-sited, unregulated wind turbines.

- In 2006, BSBO created the Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC), a birding and nature study program for kids 12 – 18. The program's mission seeks to educate, encourage, and empower our youth conservation leaders. The OYBC has become a national model, helping 16 other states (so far!) form young birders programs with BSBO's guidance.

- In 2010, BSBO created The Biggest Week In American Birding, a 10-day birding festival that brings more than 90,000 people to the area each spring. The resulting $40 million economic impact gives BSBO a powerful voice to speak on behalf of habitat conservation. To date, we've had registrants from every state, more than 50 countries, and six continents come to northwest Ohio for the festival.

Leveraging the past success to build a sound future
With this strong track record of success, the board and staff agreed that it was time to begin planning for the future. To show that we are thinking long-term and building assets for the future, we established BSBO's first Endowment Fund through the Toledo Community Foundation. Endowment funds are an important strategy to set aside funds for the future, and a hallmark of financial sustainability. We also created the BSBO Legacy Society, a program for planned giving, inducting 12 charter members this year. And in September, we embarked upon an intensive strategic planning process. Funded by generous donors and led by Tedd Long of NorthShore Strategies, we built an ambitious, but achievable, three-year plan to maintain our momentum and build on our success.

We hope you can see that the BSBO team remains as dedicated to the cause of bird conservation as we were when our organization was founded more than 25 years ago. And YOU are an integral part of our team. We are humbled beyond measure by the tremendous expressions of support for BSBO's mission over the years. Together, we will continue to do great things - for birds and people.

Enjoy the beauty of the season,

Kimberly Kaufman

Kimberly Kaufman

SUPPORT BARTLETT'S BIG SIT FOR EDUCATION

SUPPORT BSBO'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH YOUR PLEDGE OR DONATION TO BARTLETT'S BIG SIT

IT'S A FUNDRAISER THAT'S BECOME A 24-YEAR TRADITION!
At 5:00 AM on Saturday, May 12, Tom Bartlett will take a seat at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. And he'll stay in that spot for the next 12 hours to tally every bird he sees and hears from a 15-foot circle. He has been doing this annual BIG SIT for 24 years. Why, you ask? Because Tom cares about the future of birds and bird conservation. Tom conducts the BIG SIT and collects donations and pledges to help raise funds to support BSBO's education programs.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR TOM AND FOR NATURE EDUCATION
Tom makes his own pledge of $1.00 per species, and he challenges YOU to do the same, or more! Last year, the count raised more than $12,000 and with your generous support we can beat that total. And 100% of the proceeds will help educate young people about the joy of birds and the importance of being good stewards of natural resources.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP US EDUCATE, ENCOURAGE, AND EMPOWER OUR YOUTH CONSERVATION LEADERS
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. Our strong focus on youth education is highlighted by our Wetland Investigation Network (WIN) program, which offers students grades K-12 a day-long exploration of the entire marsh ecosystem. Our highly acclaimed Ohio Young Birders Club, for ages 12-18, encourages, educates, and empowers our future conservation leaders, and is serving as a model program for many other state-wide youth birding clubs.

STAY CONNECTED / SAVE TREES / SUPPORT BSBO
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY *WORDS ON BIRDS* eNEWSLETTER!

Subscribing to our monthly *Words on Birds* eNews is a great way to receive more frequent updates and first announcements of events and members-only activities, reduce paper, and reduce overall costs for BSBO.

Visit **BSBO.org** to subscribe today!

THE BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING

Tour Company Partners

Alongside the greatest volunteers in the world, our Biggest Week Tour Company Partners provide world-class guiding services during the festival. Look for the folks wearing the gold caps with the word GUIDE on the back. They're always happy to help find and identify birds!

Sabrewing Nature Tours

WILDSIDE Nature Tours.com

canopyFamily PANAMA

Birding Africa — The Africa Specialists

Birding Ecotours

Naturally Avian Birding Tours

Nature is Awesome

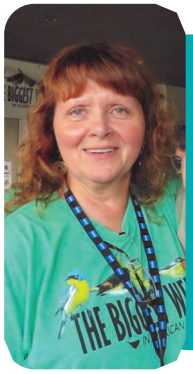
Ventures Birding Tours

THE BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING

Walk-in registration will be available at Maumee Bay State Park Lodge & Conference Center starting on **Friday, May 4**.

WHY REGISTER?

1. Score an exclusive festival goodie bag!
2. Attend several "registrants only" events!
3. Have fun at evening socials!
4. Sign up for our awesome slate of workshops and events!
5. Meet new birders!
6. Immerse yourself in spring songbird migration!
7. BSBO members get a discount on registration!



Heaps of praise and gratitude to Nancy Bogart for her steadfast dedication to BSBO, Biggest Week, and Bird Conservation.

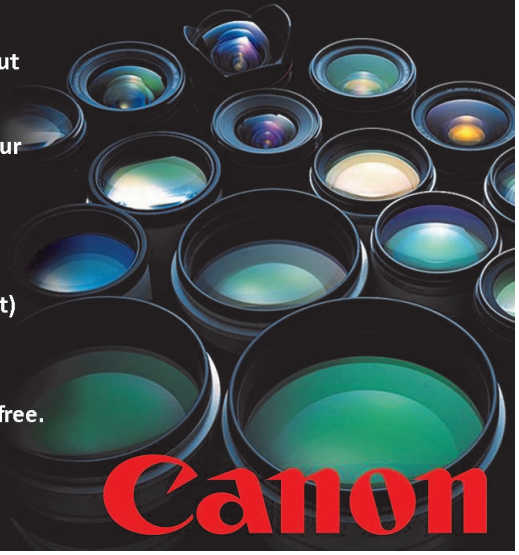
TRY CANON CAMERAS AND LENSES - FOR FREE

No catch. No gimmick. Just a chance to find out why people RAVE about this gear!

Back again by popular demand, don't miss your chance to field test some of the finest Canon cameras and lenses 100% FREE OF CHARGE for a full 24 hours during The Biggest Week.

Simply stop by Optics Alley (the big white tent) at Black Swamp Bird Observatory , fill out a simple form, and spend a full day trying out Canon's extraordinary equipment absolutely free.

Black Swamp Bird Observatory
13551 West St. Rt. 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449



BIG WEEK, BIG IMPACT

Promoting the cause of bird conservation is at the heart of The Biggest Week. 100% of the proceeds donated to the Conservation Fund will be used for improving and expanding habitat for birds. Donate at bwiab.com, visit the BSBO booth at Maumee Bay Lodge May 4-13, or stop at BSBO's Nature Store.

2017 CONSERVATION FUND RECIPIENT STANDING RUSH, LLC

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 trumpeter 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.

FREE - BEGINNER AND FAMILY BIRD WALKS

Family Bird Walk
Meet at Pearson Metropark
Sunday, May 13
10 AM—Noon

Young Birder Walks
Meet at Magee Marsh
Parking Lot (East End)
Saturday, May 5 and May 12
9 AM—Noon

Beginner Bird Walks
Meet at Pearson Metropark • 10 AM—Noon
Saturday, May 5 ● Sunday, May 6 ● Saturday, May 12

BIRDING IS FOR EVERYONE

Our unique social events make The Biggest Week about more than just birds — it's about the people who love them and bringing us together!

BIRD TRIVIA NIGHT | May 6, 6:30-8 PM
TATTOO CONTEST | May 10, 6-7:30 PM
BIRDER PROM | May 11, 7-10 PM

WITH A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR TOP FESTIVAL SPONSORS!

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SPONSORS

ZEISS

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER SPONSORS

ProMedica

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The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

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For a full list of sponsors, visit bwiab.com

2017 CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By BSBO Conservation Committee Member, Steve Pollick

The 2017 calendar of the BSBO Conservation Committee was filled with ambitious plans to tackle the threats to migratory birds and bats from wind turbines, high-rise urban lighting, feral cats, and even balloon releases and discarded tangles of fishing line.

Early on the committee decided that the most immediate, pressing, all-encompassing issue in the list was the killing of birds by ill-sited wind turbines, whether singly or clustered in "farms," and that it would supersede the other issues for the time being because of looming additional turbine projects. This work engaged the team for most of 2017.

By June, a long-standing opposition by both BSBO and its national partner, the Washington, D.C.-based American Bird Conservancy, succeeded, and the Ohio Air National Guard at Camp Perry, on the Lake Erie shoreline west of Port Clinton, agreed to halt a project to erect a 198-foot "experimental" wind turbine. The unit would have been operating in Bald Eagle flyways and would have been situated within a half mile of an active eagle nest.

Unfortunately, two 325-foot private wind turbines operate just next door in the Lake Erie Business Park. These massive machines were put into operation, with no regulatory scrutiny or permits needed. These developments draw attention to two critical concerns: The lack of proper government oversight of private wind turbines, with a concomitant need for stronger legal and regulatory oversight, and the need to declare the migration-critical Lake Erie shore zone, both onshore and offshore, off limits to industrial wind facilities and even large single turbines.

The latter point segues into another Conservation Committee issue for 2017, opposing a proposed six-unit "demonstration" wind farm nine miles offshore from western Cleveland by Lake Erie Energy Development Corp, or LEEDCo. The committee's members and support staff worked strenuously, and so far successfully, with the Ohio Power Siting Board to point out the inadequate environmental science used to justify the project in light of poorly studied bird and bat deaths. LEEDCo would be the first offshore project in freshwater in North America, a trend-setter.

The committee also has met with State Senator Randy Gardner (R., Bowling Green), and State Representative Steve Arndt (R., Oak Harbor), in hopes of drafting wind energy legislation that would protect critical bird and bat migratory sites, such as the Lake Erie shoreline and major migratory routes from poorly-sited wind. Many hundreds of additional units are proposed for Ohio in coming years, as outlined in a brilliant white paper report compiled in 2017 by Don Bauman, a veteran professional engineer and BSBO Conservation Committee member. The white paper can be read on-line on the BSBO web site, and is a must-read.

The committee also is monitoring pending state legislation that would decrease safety setbacks for siting of wind farms near residential and natural areas. Again, the threats to birds and bats are taking a back seat to wind industry lobbyists and money.

Committee members also continued to meet with wind-developer EDP Renewables over the release of data on turbine-kills of birds and bats at its Timber Road wind facility in Paulding County. Unlike Iberdrola, another wind farm giant developing turbine farms in that region, EDP has agreed to share its data. This could open the door to a scientifically sound analysis of otherwise tightly held kill rates, which the industry continues to downplay and lawmakers find too easy to ignore in light of the promise of economic profit.

BSBO's Bird-safe / Birder-friendly Community Initiative

As the year closed and issues moved into 2018, the Conservation Committee began making inroads into encouraging local municipalities to participate in BSBO's Bird-safe / Birder-friendly Community initiative, beginning with Oak Harbor and Toledo.

This long-term, multi-phased initiative will address numerous threats to birds including feral cats and balloon and lantern releases, will encourage the use of native plants, and will expand collection of spent fishing line, especially along the heavily fished Maumee River.

Building collisions are a leading cause of bird fatality during migration in North America, estimated to kill 550 million birds each year. So, in Toledo we began by partnering with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) to encourage Toledo and Lucas County officials to become part of OBCI's statewide "Ohio Lights Out" program. This program helps tall buildings downtown to turn off upper-story and decorative lighting during the spring and fall migration seasons.

As of this writing, the Lucas County Commissioners and the County Sustainability Commission already have endorsed the BSBO Bird-safe / Birder-friendly initiative through a resolution that passed unanimously on March 27. We expect Toledo City Council to pass the resolution, as well.

In Oak Harbor, where there is a large and problematic feral cat population, we began by urging community leadership to revise the Village's current legislation to more effectively address the cat problem. BSBO volunteer legal counsel, Ken Mauer, drafted legislation, and it's now in the hands of the working group we put together with Village leadership.

Last and certainly not least, it is only through your support as BSBO members that the committee is able to work to conserve the birds. We are deeply grateful for your support!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS AT BSBO.ORG

RESEARCH UPDATES - 2017 FALL BANDING SEASON

It's always interesting to reflect on the banding season once the nets are down and the station is closed up. Each season in the Navarre Marsh is unique, with shifting weather patterns; variations in productivity (number of young produced) between species and even within a given species' range; minor differences in our banding effort (despite our best attempts to be consistent in this regard); and changes in the microhabitat and overall habitat at our banding station driving annual differences in capture numbers. All of these factors and many more can affect species composition, age and sex ratios, and the timing of the birds we capture. While our capture data varies to some degree between seasons, by banding birds consistently over the long term we can begin to smooth out the extreme highs and lows in these numbers and better understand overall population trends, as well as variables that affect these trends.

People often envision wildlife populations as stable year after year, but they can more accurately be described as being cyclical and variable around averages or means. As opposed to the idea of consistent homeostasis, a flat line if you will, bird populations are oftentimes better visualized as a dynamic equilibrium, with near continual change – boom and bust cycles that portray population numbers in a wave-like pattern with highs and lows. Across decades, we can also pick up on overall population increases or decreases, age or sex ratio changes, alterations to arrival or departure timing, and other demographic, temporal, or spatial fluctuations. Teasing apart these factors and their effects are topics we're looking forward to discussing more in future reports. For now, we'd like to present some of the interesting trends we noticed during the fall season and discuss them in a slightly broader, historical context.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

We never catch a lot of these birds during the fall season. In fact, our highest number of captures in a given season is 19 individuals. On average, we band around five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers each fall. This year, we were close to that average and only slightly above it with six birds banded. What is interesting about this is that last fall (2016) we didn't band any of these birds. They may have moved earlier in the season (oftentimes birds that fail to breed in a given season will begin to wander or migrate earlier than birds who are tied up in their territory later in the season tending to their young), bypassed our banding station completely, or been present but not captured. With a species that we catch so few of, it's hard to say exactly what drives these annual differences in capture rate, but in and of itself, it's interesting to merely observe that variability. One way of better understanding the population trends for a species such as this is to compare our annual capture rate with other banding stations over the long term. If capture rates for everyone are down in a given year and everyone's rates rise in the same year, we can probably safely say that these birds are cyclical in their population trends. Discrepancies in capture rates between stations might indicate more regional or station-specific nuance to bird movements.

White-throated Sparrow

Along with Swainson's Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler, White-throated Sparrow is one of the poster-children of fall migration in the Navarre Marsh. On average we band approximately 350 of these dapper sparrows each fall, but the last two falls have seen us capture far fewer birds than normal with 192 banded this fall and only 158 banded in 2016. These significantly lower numbers could have to do with net height (nets too high off the ground can fail to catch these birds which tend to move close to the forest floor), too many mornings with delayed starts (sparrows are often most active right after dawn, with activity tapering off as the morning goes on), or true population declines.

Continued on page 12

2017 FALL BANDING SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

4,275 birds banded **91** species banded **28** warbler species

Top Ten Species Fall 2017	
Blackpoll Warbler	446
Swainson's Thrush	392
Gray Catbird	366
Golden-crowned Kinglet	227
White-throated Sparrow	192
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	184
Gray-cheeked Thrush	171
Hermit Thrush	139
Myrtle Warbler	105
Magnolia Warbler	90

1989-2016 Average	
Blackpoll Warbler	546
Swainson's Thrush	492
White-throated Sparrow	351
Myrtle Warbler	305
Gray Catbird	278
Golden-crowned Kinglet	254
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	210
Hermit Thrush	187
Gray-cheeked Thrush	183
Common Yellowthroat	164

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

EDUCATION & OUTREACH UPDATES

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

We are excited to announce that the 2018 recipient of the Theodore "Ted" A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship is Helena Souffrant! Helena is a member of the NE Chapter of BSBO's Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC), and we are proud o have her serve as an OYBC representative at Camp Chiricahua in Arizona this summer.

Working with NE Chapter advisers, Helena's mother, and school officials, we surprised Helena with the announcement at a FULL ASSEMBLY at her school!

Learn more about the Theodore "Ted" A. Parker III Memorial Scholarship, at www.ohioyoungbirders.org

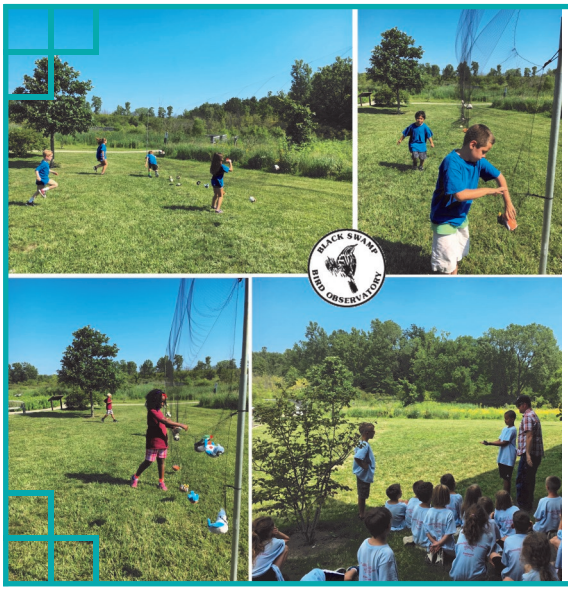
Left to right: BSBO Education Director Laura Guerard, scholarship recipient Helena Souffrant, Helena's mom Helen Rhynard, and OYBC NE Ohio Chapter Adviser / Cleveland Metroparks employee Bev Walborn. (Photo by Rose Vardell)

Learn more about BSBO's Ohio Young Birders Club at www.ohioyoungbirders.org

OYBC MEMBERS CONNECTING ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Alex Burke (pictured at right), a member of the NE Ohio Chapter of BSBO's Ohio Young Birders Club, reached out to BSBO for information to share with his elementary school's sister school in the Canary Islands in Spain.

Alex and his class had a Google Hangout session with their sister school where he shared the field guide they would be receiving and information about Black Swamp Bird Observatory and the famed Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. (Pictured!)



As we welcome spring, the Education and Outreach teams are gearing up for a full season of programs! Each spring we reach thousands of students, allowing us to foster a sense of stewardship for the Lake Erie marshes, which serve as critically important stopover habitat for migrating birds. For the second year, we will be hosting interns from Westside Montessori School in Toledo this April. These interns are spending part of their spring break with us and will be learning about research conducted at the Navarre Banding Station, participating in education programs, and helping to get the BSBO grounds ready for The Biggest Week In American Birding. We continue to broaden our reach and recently formed a special partnership with the Greater Port Clinton Area Arts Council.

It is thanks to members like YOU that BSBO is able to offer dynamic programming throughout NW Ohio ~ and beyond! Your membership helps us to offer these community programs at no cost to schools and allows us to interact with more students each year.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference!

Pictured at left: Students learn about being ornithologists by removing Audubon plush birds from mist nets during a BSBO Migration Ecology program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

HIKE THE DIKES
Date: Saturday, April 14
Time: 9 AM
Location: Meet at Magee Marsh Migratory Bird Center
RSVP: No registration required. Free and open to the public.

BIRDING MAGEE MARSH FOR EARLY MIGRANTS: *MEMBERS ONLY*
Date: Saturday, April 28
Time: 8-11 AM
Location: BSBO
RSVP: Call 419-898-4070 to sign up

SONGBIRD MIGRATION BANDING PROGRAM
Date: Sunday, April 29
Time: 10 AM - 12 PM
Location: BSBO
RSVP: None required. Free and open to the public.

MAY

THE BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING
Date: May 4-13
Location: Festival HQ Maumee Bay Lodge
Visit bwiab.com for details.

HIKE THE DIKES
Date: Saturday, May 12
Time: 9 AM
Location: Ottawa NWR
RSVP: No registration required. Free and open to public.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
Date: Saturday, May 12

TOM BARTLETT'S BIG SIT
Date: Saturday, May 12
Time: 5 AM - 5 PM
Location: Magee Marsh

JUNE

OPTICS FLING
Date: June 1-2
Location: Time & Optics, Millersburg, OH

HIKE THE DIKES
Date: Saturday, June 9
Time: 9 AM
Location: Ottawa NWR
RSVP: No registration required. Free and open to the public.

BOBOLINKS & BUTTERFLIES
Date: Saturday, June 23
Time: 9 AM - 3 PM
Location: Byers Woods
Visit gmasohio.org for details.

DATES SET FOR 2018 BSBO PELAGIC TRIPS!

November 17 and December 1
9 AM to 1 PM

Subscribe to the BSBO Words on Birds monthly eNews for the latest announcements: bsbo.org/enews

Or watch the BSBO website for updates: bsbo.org

JULY

HIKE THE DIKES
Date: Saturday, July 14
Time: 9 AM
Location: Ottawa NWR
RSVP: No registration required. Free and open to the public.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP & HOT DOG ROAST
Date: Sunday, July 8
Time: 10 AM - 12 PM
Location: BSBO
RSVP: Call 419-898-4070 to sign up. Bring a friend!

AUGUST

HIKE THE DIKES
Date: Saturday, August 11
Time: 9 AM
Location: Ottawa NWR
RSVP: No registration required. Free and open to the public.

BSBO VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC
Date: Sunday, August 12
Time: 12-3 PM
Location: BSBO

SEPTEMBER

HIKE THE DIKES
Date: Saturday, September 8
Time: 9 a.m.
Meeting Location: Ottawa NWR Visitors' Center
Registration Required: No, free and open to the public

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Drive

April 21,22
May 4-20
May 26-28

BSBO LEGACY SOCIETY

Introducing the BSBO Legacy Society

By BSBO Development Committee Chair, Charity Krueger

At the momentous 25th Anniversary celebration of Black Swamp Bird Observatory, the BSBO Board of Directors announced the creation of the BSBO Legacy Society. The Legacy Society recognizes individuals who are providing planned gifts that will ensure a sustainable financial future for BSBO's talented staff, volunteers, and incredible mission. This fall, the Board established a BSBO Endowment at the Toledo Foundation with a $100,000 anonymous gift.

What is a planned gift? It might be a bequest in your will, an insurance policy, a percentage of your estate, land or home, an IRA account, or a significant gift. As these planned gifts become a reality, the funds will be invested in the BSBO Endowment. Each year, BSBO will receive an interest payment of about 4.5% of the endowment's value which will support BSBO's incredible activities.

Larry Richardson, a long-time BSBO member, past BSBO Board Member, and popular birding guide during the Biggest Week, was inducted into the Legacy Society. Larry is providing BSBO with a sacrificial gift of a $50,000 life insurance policy. At the event Larry shared, "BSBO's 25th anniversary celebration is the perfect time to declare the need for an endowment campaign.

This is a major step to garner philanthropic support which will move BSBO toward operational fiscal sustainability. "My pledge is strategic. It is my personal investment in the future of this wonderful organization. I hope my gift will show members, friends, partners, potential donors, and regional leaders that BSBO is ready to build a secure future." Larry went on to explain, "It is important to know that I made this PLEDGE NOW and at this level because the BSBO Board approached me, explained the need, and ASKED ME to contribute significantly. Over the next few months as plans for the endowment evolve, think about BSBO's endowed future as an opportunity to make an investment in something that has enriched your life. I thought about it. I was asked and I gratefully responded to the need. I hope you do too."

It is our dream that 20 years from now, at least 20% of BSBO's income will be provided by the interest from this endowment. At this time 12 individuals have informed us that they are providing planned gifts to BSBO. While several new inductees were unable to attend the anniversary celebration, Patricia Whitesides, Donald Bauman, and Charity Krueger were inducted during the special event.

PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO BSBO IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Please consider supporting our research and education efforts by joining the BSBO Legacy Society. Bequests of any size are gratefully accepted.

Your bequest 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

Please contact Kimberly Kaufman with any questions by calling 419-898-4070 or emailing kimkaufman@bsbo.org

HELP US HELP THE BIRDS

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:
Black Swamp Bird
Observatory
Get started
amazonsmile

Many thanks to all of the members who made BSBO the recipient of donations through their Kroger Rewards and AmazonSmile accounts.

Funds raised in the last year, totaled $1557.76!
- Kroger Rewards $1030.72
- AmazonSmile $527.04

For sign up details visit bsbo.org/help-bsbo-while-you-shop

wish list

EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, SOFTWARE

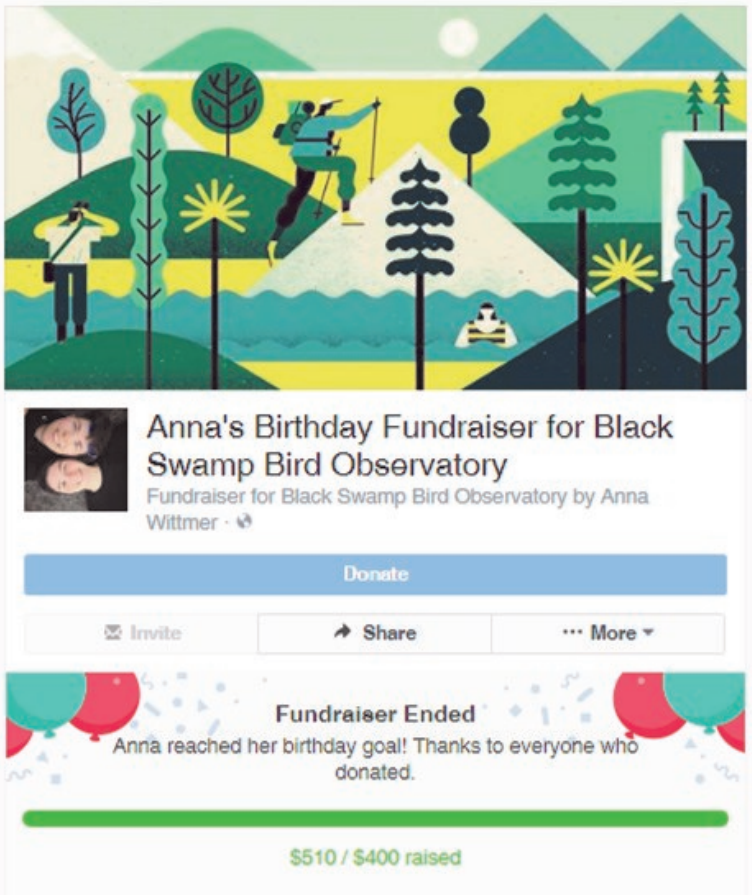
- **A new Dell laptop for our education department**
- **LCD projector HD (1920 x 1080), 40000:1 contrast, 2200 lumens**
- **Mist nets for our songbird research**
- **Ink cartridges for our printers**
- **Bird Food: Sunflower Seeds, Thistle Seeds, Suet Cakes**

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

Many thanks to Anna Wittmer! Anna did a Facebook fundraiser for BSBO's Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) on her birthday, asking people to give to BSBO in honor of her special day. Thanks to Anna and the generosity of her friends and family, more than $500 dollars was raised to support the OYBC! Thank you so much, Anna!



RESEARCH REPORT (continued from page 7)

It's likely that all of these factors are at play to some degree at our station over the last few seasons. Ensuring our banding protocol is consistent and standardized helps us control variation in our effort that may translate to lower catch rate and ensures that the number of birds captured better reflects the true number of birds in the marsh on a given day or in a given season.

Blackpoll Warbler
Over the last few seasons, we've observed a classic cyclical pattern in Blackpoll Warblers, which is typically the species that helps drive our overall numbers each fall season. In an average year, we band around 546 Blackpoll Warblers. We were down from our average approximately 100 birds with 446 banded in fall 2017. In fall of 2016, we were well above average with 783 individuals banded. Differential productivity in a species that is prone to population fluctuations in response to spruce budworm outbreaks (a major food source for these birds on their breeding grounds) as well as unusual weather patterns (particularly for a species with the capacity to move huge distances in a short period of time), likely explain at least some of the annual variation in our catch rate. With such a large proportion of the world's population of Blackpoll Warbler moving through the Lake Erie Marsh Region each fall, maintaining and improving our stopover sites as well as continuing to track this species each year is essential for helping us unravel migration mysteries and overall population trends for Blackpoll Warblers. It's also critical for ensuring the protection of this species into the future.

Gray Catbird
This species dominates captures during the early part of the fall season each year. Typically, the peak time for Gray Catbirds in our nets is during the month of August, with numbers tapering off throughout September. With our milder-than-usual fall weather, as well as less-than-ideal southwestern migration winds during the bulk of September, we recorded Gray Catbirds at the station all the way up until the last week of the banding season in October. We also captured more Gray Catbirds this fall (366) than our average catch of 278 in a given fall. Numbers of Gray Catbird were also up in fall of 2016 with 343 Gray Catbirds banded.

Continued tracking of this species over the long term will help us understand if this represents an actual increase in Gray Catbirds overall and how our local productivity may play into our annual fall capture rates. Because Gray Catbirds nest locally and also migrate through our station, timing as well as plumage characteristics might help us separate out how productive our site is for this species and how productivity in our local area affects overall catbird catches each fall.

The above cases represent only a few of the trend patterns we observe in the birds we study and some of the factors that may affect these species each fall. The importance of tracking these birds consistently, annually, and over the long term cannot be overstated for helping us understand how overall bird populations are faring and what factors affect bird populations. Banding birds gives us reliable and extensive empirical data to this end, data that surveys or field observations cannot provide. By combining our banding effort with consistent survey results, our data becomes even stronger and more robust, and paints a better, truer picture of fluctuations and trends in the bird populations we so dearly care for. It becomes an essential piece of the conservation puzzle, as only when armed with this basic information can we begin to open the door to conversations about bird conservation.

As we reflect back on another successful fall banding season, we give thanks to the birds that provide us a window into the health of our ecosystems and serve to lift our spirits. Scientifically and spiritually, birds take us to new heights and no matter how many Red-winged Blackbirds we see or how many Swainson's Thrushes we have the privilege of examining up close, we never lose sight of how important these individual birds are to birders, researchers, and the ecosystems we work to protect.

SPONSOR 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, our biggest research expense is the mist nets that are a vital tool in our bird banding projects.

You can help continue this valuable monitoring project by sponsoring a mist net, or nets!

Please help us continue this important work by sponsoring a mist net at

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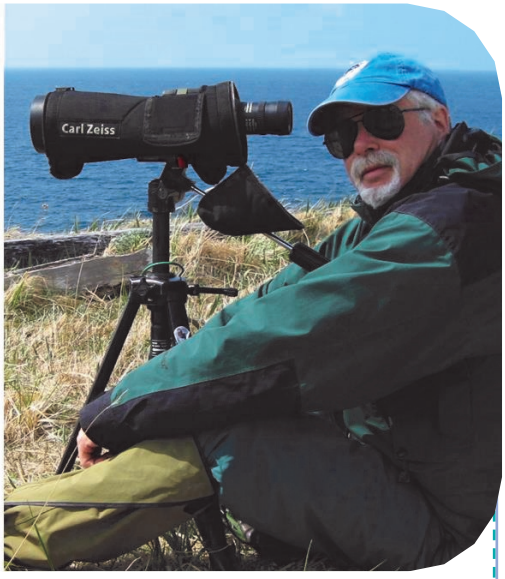
George Sydlowski

For the past 20 years, George Sydlowski has worked for the Lucas County Commissioners in the areas of workers compensation, safety, and budgeting. An avid birder for over 30 years, George started off photographing birds and now enjoys photographing anything nature related from flowers, dragonflies, moths, and landscapes. He spends a lot of his spare time birding and exploring nature at Oak Openings. Other hobbies include cooking, baking, and his newest adventure: painting with pastels.

Annie Crary

Annie Crary is a PhD student and University Fellow at the University of Toledo where she studies trends in long-term bird banding datasets, and how anthropogenic factors, in particular climate change, affect avian populations, movements, and behavior. She was trained as a bird bander at Powdermill Nature Reserve in Rector, Pennsylvania, field station of the Carnegie Museum of Natural history. Annie is a master bird banding permit holder and is a North American Banding Council-certified bird bander trainer.



Craig Caldwell

Craig Caldwell was, in succession, an analytical chemist and real estate investor (now retired). Over the years he has served as an officer, board member, committee chair, or field trip leader for environmental and birding organizations including the Sierra Club, the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS), local Audubon chapters, and the Kirtland Bird Club. Currently he is the editor of The Ohio Cardinal, the quarterly journal of the OOS.

Read all of our board member bios at bsbo.org.

WELCOME OUR NEW COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, JASMINE CUPP!

Jasmine is an Ottawa County native and a nature and Great Lakes enthusiast. Traveling throughout the Great Lakes region with her family, she has gained an appreciation for the outdoors. Before coming to the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Jasmine worked for The Beacon news publication as editor and production manager for over four years. While covering The Biggest Week in American Birding as media, Jasmine fell in love with birding on the boardwalk at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Jasmine is passionate about wildlife and habitat conservation and showing people the healing power of nature. Jasmine earned her Communications Degree, graduating with honors from Owens Community College in 2013.

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