

Date: May 11, 2021

Resolution No.

Title: Commemorating the Biggest Week in American Birding Festival in Lucas County

Department/Agency: Commissioners

Contact: Melissa Hopfer, Sustainability Project Manager

Summary/Background: The Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) was founded in 1992 by a group of biologists studying bird migration in the area. Having collected several years of data, they recognized the need for an organization to help disseminate their research findings. BSBO's long-term research projects have helped to develop a greater understanding of bird migration and the habitat needs of migratory and native birds. The mission of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory is to inspire the appreciation, enjoyment, and conservation of birds and their habitats through research, education, and outreach.

BSBO also organizes and hosts The Biggest Week in American Birding: a 10-day birding festival timed to coincide with the peak of spring songbird migration in northwest Ohio. Each spring, more than 90,000 birders visit the area from all over the world, generating an annual economic impact of more than \$40 million. To date, BSBO has registered birders from every state, more than 52 countries, and six continents. BSBO's marketing efforts have extended the area tourism season by a full six weeks.

While the festival activities are virtual this year due to COVID-19 to ensure the safety of everyone involved, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory has assembled a vibrant and successful program. This year, BSBO had a significant amount of programming focused on cultural diversity and equity in the birding community, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners congratulate and commend the efforts of BSBO for this year's outstanding and relevant program, and for the organization's continued work in preserving and protecting migratory birds.

Budget Impact: None

Statutory Authority/ORC:

Commissioner Wozniak offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in consideration of the above, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. The Board hereby commemorates the Biggest Week in American Birding festival in Lucas County.

Section 2. The Board congratulates the Black Swamp Bird Observatory on providing safe virtual presentations for birders of all skill levels to celebrate the Biggest Week in American Birding.

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Section 3. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in those formal actions were in meeting open to the public in compliance with the law.

Section 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Action Taken:

Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

Jody L. Balogh, Clerk

[Date]
[Title]
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