



BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY

Teaming Research with Education to Promote Bird Conservation

Dendroica

SPRING 2011
VOLUME 19 NUMBER 1



*Teaming Research with Education
to Promote Bird Conservation*



SAVE THIS DATE!
SUNDAY, August 7, 2011

Join us for our 19th Annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic, - food, fun, and a chance to celebrate the extraordinary amount of time that our volunteers contribute to the Observatory.

If you're a volunteer and you haven't submitted YOUR volunteer hours, we encourage you to do so very soon! Contact julieshieldcastle@bsbo.org if you have questions about submitting your volunteer hours.

HELP BSBO SAVE MONEY
AND CONSERVE TREES BY
SIGNING UP FOR
ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF
THE BSBO NEWSLETTER.
As an added benefit, you'll
receive the
FULL COLOR version!

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Photo by Brian Zwiebel



Continue to support BSBO's mission by renewing your BSBO membership, today!

We are located in the Crane Creek - Magee Marsh region of Northwest Ohio

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Teaming Research with Education
to Promote Bird Conservation

13551 West St. Rt. 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449
419 898-4070 (voice)
419 898-1363 (fax)
www.bsbobird.org

Spring Gift Shop Hours

April & June

Fri., Sat., Sun., & Mon.
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

And every day in May

Observatory Staff

Kimberly Kaufman
Executive Director

Julie Shieldcastle
Conservation Director

Mark Shieldcastle
Research Director

Ken Keffer
Education Director

Hugh Rose
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Administrative Assistant

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Cover Photo: Bald Eagle by Paul Wray

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum, 1968.)



I've always loved that quote and it's been on my mind a lot recently as BSBO makes a valiant effort to represent and protect the interests of migratory birds from wind development in Northwest Ohio. This is not a new issue for us: members of the BSBO staff have been working on this issue in some capacity for more than eight years. In spite of the resources of numerous organizations and agencies being thrown at this issue over the last decade, it has not prevented 300-foot wind turbines from being installed painfully close to the southern edge of Darby National Wildlife Refuge and proposed near the western edge of Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge.

There are currently *no regulations* on mid-sized wind turbines that can exceed 300 feet in height. There are several wind turbines this size being installed in highly bird sensitive areas along the Lake Erie Shoreline.

Please sign our online petition and help us ensure the integrity of the migratory bird stopover habitat of the Lake Erie Marshes, and the safety of millions of birds.

www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/924/482/794/

While we've been at this for some time now, during the last several months, the staff at BSBO has been completely consumed with getting the word out about large wind turbines that are creeping ever-closer to the critical migratory bird stopover habitat of the Lake Erie Marsh Region. Birding areas with iconic names such as Magee Marsh, Metzger Marsh, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, are at risk if we do not find a way to regulate the placement of these potential bird and bat killers.

BSBO has been doing everything in our power to raise awareness of this issue. We've hosted several meetings with community leaders, state and federal wildlife agencies, and wind industry representatives to discuss the issue. We have given numerous presentations on the importance of considering migratory birds and their stopover habitat needs when siting wind turbines. We have written dozens of articles and press releases trying to educate the public on the importance of considering migratory birds and stopover habitat before we install wind turbines. We are pleased to announce that the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is looking at ways they can get involved and their support will make an enormous difference.

In recent weeks, BSBO has been forced to scale back our efforts with wind power in order to focus on our core mission of bird research, education, and conservation; however, the issue has not gone away, nor have our

concerns. More and more wind turbines are peppering the Lake Erie Coast—on both sides of the Lake. It will take a tremendous team effort to ensure that migratory birds and their habitat needs are considered fairly. We need your help. Please sign our online petition, co-sponsored by Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) and Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS). Visit our website at: www.bsbobird.org for more information and the link to the online on this issue.

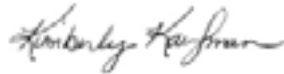
We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Board and members of OOS and GMAS for their support. We will need continued support to protect these areas that are important to so many of us, and are critical to the survival of million of birds.

In closing, I'd like to share some positive news. I mentioned that we've been scaling back our efforts on the wind issue in an effort to focus on BSBO's core mission. Last November, the BSBO Board and Staff participated in several long-term planning sessions. One of the many great things that came out of these discussions was our newly-minted mission statement, and I'm very excited to share it with you now.

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.

I hope you'll share the enthusiasm of the BSBO Board and Staff for what we feel is a mission statement that represents where we are today. And I hope you'll stay with us as we begin the next chapter in the BSBO book of birds and bird conservation.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Kaufman
Executive Director

We dedicated this issue of *Dendroica* to the memory of those who are gone - but never forgotten.

In honor of BSBO Charter Members
DeVere (O.D.) Line and Margaret "Marty" Michener.

And in honor of the late Bill Thompson, Junior,
founder of Bird Watcher's Digest, and a friend to every person
who ever had the great privilege to make his acquaintance.

We will do our best to honor the memory of these
fine people through our work on behalf of birds.

BIRDS & BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

We encourage you to patronize these establishments that support the Observatory.

Please tell them that BSBO referred you to them and thank them for their support.

- ◆ America's Best Value Inn
- ◆ Barnside Creamery
- ◆ Bench Farms (SR-2)
- ◆ BirdWatching Magazine
- ◆ Birds and Beans Cofee
- ◆ Blackberry Corner Tavern
- ◆ Brian Zwiebel Photography
- ◆ Bumble Bee Cottages
- ◆ Camp Sabroske
- ◆ Common Grounds Coffee & Deli
- ◆ Deer Run Lodge
- ◆ Discovery Tours of Cleveland
- ◆ Eagle Optics
- ◆ Eagle's Nest Sweet Retreat
- ◆ Fastrack Urgent Care
- ◆ Five Bells Inn
- ◆ First Solar, Inc.
- ◆ Great Lakes Popcorn Co.
- ◆ Jet Express
- ◆ Jordan Specialty Advertising
- ◆ Holiday Inn Express - Oregon
- ◆ Kaufman Field Guides
- ◆ Kokomo Bay Restaurant
- ◆ Lakeside Association
- ◆ Marblehead Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center
- ◆ Maumee Bay General Store
- ◆ Miller Boat Line
- ◆ Minuteman Press
- ◆ McCarthy's Restaurant & Pub
- ◆ National Bank of Oak Harbor
- ◆ OurGuest Inn & Suites
- ◆ Our Sunset Place B & B
- ◆ Porky's Pizza Trof
- ◆ Residence Inn by Marriott - Maumee/Oregon
- ◆ RRI Energy
- ◆ Schaffner Publications
- ◆ Swarovski Optik USA
- ◆ Tadpole Inn
- ◆ The Island House Resort
- ◆ Time & Optics, Ltd.
- ◆ Tropical Birding Tours
- ◆ Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
- ◆ Victorian Inn B & B
- ◆ Wild Birds Unlimited - Toledo

For more information on the BSBO Birds & Business Alliance program contact
Kimberly Kaufman
at 419 898-4070

TEAMING RESEARCH WITH EDUCATION TO PROMOTE BIRD CONSERVATION

SPRING RESEARCH

SEASON UNDERWAY

Spring is here, and the 2011 Spring Research Season has begun, with Rail banding already underway and field work for the Shorebird survey initiated. Songbird migration banding will start in mid-April, along with butterfly surveys, and a fair bit of public speaking as well. The research staff is finishing the 2010 Annual Progress Reports for each of the projects, and once they are reviewed by BSBO's technical advisory team, each will be posted to the BSBO website at the following address: http://www.bsbo.org/BSBO_publications.htm

OHIO WINTER BIRD ATLAS: The Country's FIRST!

While spring research project preparation is underway, BSBO's research team has been putting the finishing touches on what has been a monumental operation for the Observatory—the *country's first Winter Bird Atlas*. The field work was completed in 2008—and that was just the beginning. Data analysis of over 100,000 records culminating in individual species distribution and abundance maps and accompanying tables provided some of the

groundwork for the species account writing. A large number of Ohio birders have been instrumental in writing accounts for the manuscript. Each account provides overall status, Ohio status, winter ecology and Atlas results. It's amazing how little is known about winter bird behavior and the needs of many species, and we look forward to sharing the wealth of information the Ohio Winter Bird Atlas will provide.

For nearly two years now, the Atlas committee has been actively reviewing and editing the species accounts as they are submitted. Attempting to keep some sort of consistency—without hampering individual style—is a challenging task. Fortunately, BSBO has been able to rely upon the outstanding skills of our Managing Editor, Debbie Griffith, and she has done a phenomenal job of keeping this very complex project on task. The committee is also in the final stages of selecting photos for each of the full species accounts that will accompany the write-up; a monumental task of its own.

Additional tasks involve selection of the cover design, preparing literature citation listings, and the completion of various introductory chapters. These chapters are being put

together by the committee and include study methods, distribution, management implications, background, and weather topics. Once these are completed it goes to Kenn Kaufman, who has agreed to write the forward. Then, it's on to the Ohio Division of Wildlife for publication.

Mark Shieldcastle
Research Director

ADOPT-A-Mist Net

BSBO's biggest research expense is the mist nets that are the primary tool of our banding projects. We use as many as 100 nets each year, and at \$70 per net, the cost really adds up. Please consider "adopting a mist net" by filling out the form included in this issue of *Dendroica*. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We're looking for help with a couple of important projects.

Songbird Banding Research

The Observatory's most important research project, our songbird banding research, is in need of some helping hands. If you're interested in learning more about bird migration, seeing beautiful songbirds up close, spending time outdoors, and assisting with BSBO's research, please email staff@bsbo.org. Songbird banding research orientation for new volunteers is April 30, 2011 at 1 p.m. at the Observatory. Preregistration required by calling 419 898-4070.

The Biggest Week in American Birding

We're looking for people interested in meeting birders from around the world! We need helpers at the registration table at BSBO and a variety of other festival tasks. Please email delorescole@bsbo.org to learn more about volunteering.

TEAMING RESEARCH WITH EDUCATION TO PROMOTE BIRD CONSERVATION

WETLAND INVESTIGATION NETWORK (WIN) HIGHLIGHTS

A partnership program with Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Ottawa National Wildlife Area offering curriculum-based field studies for K-12 school field trips.

BSBO Education Staff Teams Up With Bowling Green State University!

In an effort to evaluate and strengthen the WIN experience, BSBO has initiated an exciting partnership with Bowling Green State University (BGSU) students. BGSU Professor Dr. Shannon Orr states, "One of the cornerstones of the BGSU Master's of Public Administration program is learning through service to the community." As a portion of the Program Evaluation class, teams of students were paired with area organizations. This year the environmental team chose to work with BSBO. The BSBO Education Department eagerly welcomed these enthusiastic graduate students who facilitated the ongoing evaluation efforts of the WIN Education Program, while enhancing their own learning opportunities.

There is a growing body of evidence that environmental education is a valuable and beneficial addition to classrooms, however documenting these benefits can be somewhat challenging. It has been great to have BGSU guiding the process for the WIN evaluations.

Thanks to membership support, donations, and grants—including the recent award from Toledo Community Foundation—the Wetland Investigation Network is a FREE program. A limited number of transportation scholarships are also available to fund the bus

fees associated with field trips. Teachers are encouraged to contact BSBO if they are interested in bringing students out to experience one of these dynamic WIN programs.

Membership donations continue to be a major source of support for BSBO's research and education efforts. Your contributions are helping us to shape the future of bird conservation, as we work together to encourage, educate, and empower our youth conservation leaders!

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB (OYBC) HIGHLIGHTS

A monthly field program for nature enthusiasts ages 12 – 18.

The Ohio Young Birders Club has maintained an active schedule of events throughout the winter, continuing into the spring and summer. Highlights included participating in Christmas Bird Counts in December and January, teaming up with BSBO at the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area Winter Blues Blowout in February, and attending the Shreve Migration Sensation Festival in March.



OYBC's Columbus Chapter members recognized for their conservation work at the Columbus Audubon Annual Meeting. Photo by Gerry Brevoort.

American Birding Association's 2011 Young Birder of the Year Contest



Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) Membership Coordinator John Sawvel brought honor to the OYBC and to BSBO when he was invited to serve as a judge

for the American Birding Association's 2011 Young Birder of the Year Contest! John was one of three judges for the field notes module of the contest, and spent countless hours pouring over every detail of the field notebooks of several contestants. The annual contest also includes modules on writing, illustration, and photography. John's fellow judges included, David Sibley, Rick Wright, Laura Kammermeier, Louise Zemaitis, and Dudley Edmondson.

Congratulations on a job well done, John! And, thank you for representing the OYBC and BSBO!

The OYBC Central Ohio Chapter hosted field trips to Prairie Rose Farm in Marysville, Ohio for winter wildlife tracking, and conducted a two-day service project constructing and installing nest boxes at Glacier Ridge Metro Park near Columbus. Several student members were honored by Columbus Audubon with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding public service, including the Glacier Ridge Metro Park nest box project and a bird feeding station installation project to Indianola School.

Ken Keffer
Education Director

WIND DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATORY BIRD STOPOVER HABITAT: An Ongoing Effort

In an ongoing effort to protect migratory bird stopover habitat from wind development, BSBO has held many meetings, given dozens of programs, and initiated discussion with many key stakeholders. The following is an excerpt from a BSBO press release regarding one of those meetings.

BSBO Hosts Meeting to Discuss Regulations on Wind Turbines

On Tuesday, January 18th, 2011, Black Swamp Bird Observatory hosted a meeting to discuss wind turbines in migratory bird stopover habitat along Lake Erie.

There is growing concern about the impact of poorly sited wind turbines on the large population of Bald Eagles, the thousands of swans that grace the marshes, and the millions of tiny songbirds that rely on the Lake Erie Marsh region as a resting point before and after crossing the lake during their long migration.

Taking part in the meeting were representatives from Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, the American Bird Conservancy, Long Point Waterfowl/Bird Studies Canada, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Bowling Green State University (BGSU), University of Toledo (UT), Ohio State University (OSU), Toledo and Erie Metroparks, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, and Ottawa County Visitors' Bureau. Ottawa County Commissioner Jim Sass also attended.

The Observatory is calling for stricter regulations on all turbines in highly bird-sensitive areas and a three-year moratorium on any additional wind

turbines along a three-mile buffer of the Lakeshore in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Erie Counties until comprehensive research can be conducted. For those who support the Observatory's position, we urge you to sign our online petition at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/924/482/794/>

BIRD CONSERVATION BRIEFS

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) Launches Bird-Smart Wind Power Campaign

Wind power can be an important part of the solution to global warming, but wind farms can and do kill birds—including eagles, songbirds, and endangered species—through collisions with turbines and loss of habitat.

By 2030, there will be more than 100,000 wind turbines in the U.S., and these are expected to kill at least one million birds each year—probably significantly more. Wind farms are also expected to impact almost 20,000 square miles of terrestrial bird habitat, and another 4,000 square miles of marine habitat, some of it critical to threatened species.

To learn more about ABC's Bird-Smart Wind Power Campaign, **visit** www.abcbirds.org

Communications Antenna Structure Registration: Out for Public Comment

The FCC has established a website, <http://www.fcc.gov/pea>, which contains information and downloadable documents. The website also allows individuals to contact the Commission, and will be updated at key milestones throughout the study.

Julie Shieldcastle
Conservation Director

PURCHASE YOUR OHIO WILDLIFE LEGACY STAMP TODAY!

For \$15 you can help
protect Ohio's wildlife!

Available in the
BSBO Gift Shop
and in our Online Swamp
Shop at www.bsbobird.org



BSBO CLEANS UP

BSBO's Ditchpig King Steve Pollick and Ditchpig Queen Julie Shieldcastle were joined by six other stalwarts on Saturday, March 26 for the inaugural litter cleanup of 2011. It marked the start of the 18th season of collecting trash on State Rt. 2 in front of Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Ottawa County.

Anyone is welcome to volunteer for this thrice-annual BSBO community service project, and many hands make light work. The crew this time included veteran Jim Mollenkopf, V.J. Huffman, "Joe-Dog" Kane, John and Pam Pullella, Tom Harmon, and Julie Shieldcastle. Inclement weather caused the last 2010 pickup to be canceled, and that left the Ditchpig team a lot of trash to collect this spring – 27 plastic trash bags full. A mid-summer, mid-week, evening pickup will be announced soon, an event that is followed by an always enjoyable wienner roast.

BSBO BIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS - DONATE THE GUIA

Sharing the Joy of Birding Continues

By Jennie Duberstein
Education and Outreach
Coordinator, Sonoran Joint Venture

"¿Dónde debemos empezar? (Where should we begin?)" *I have asked this question countless times over the past five days. I am at Estero del Yugo, a small estuary located in Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico. I am in the middle of leading a training workshop for biologists from natural protected areas throughout the country. Participants are here to learn how to design and implement a basic bird monitoring program for their Natural Protected Area. They come from across the country, each with their own area of expertise. The majority of participants are not bird specialists. They are not birders. Most do not even know how to use a bird field guide.*

You can perhaps imagine the difficulty in teaching someone how to identify birds and design and implement a monitoring program when there are no field guides available, or when the only available guides are written in a language that the person does not read. Until fairly recently, in Mexico this was the unfortunate reality. While there were excellent field guides to Mexico, there was not an easily-available, economically-priced field guide for use in teaching people how to identify birds.

The Sonoran Joint Venture's (SJV) mission is the conservation of the unique birds and habitats of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. One of the major ways in which we accomplish our mission is through capacity building and training for our

partners. The publication of the Kaufman *Guía de Campo a las Aves de Norteamérica* allowed us to offer training and outreach to people whom we could not reach before, simply because we did not have the

"The Guía has truly altered the way in which the SJV is able to accomplish its goals for bird and habitat conservation in Mexico."

appropriate teaching tools. "¿Dónde debemos empezar?" *I ask the question again and workshop participants flip through their manuals to find the list of instructions entitled, Usar la guía de campo: ¿Por dónde empezar con la Guía de Kaufman? (Using the field guide: where do you start with the Kaufman Guide?) Students reference the instruction list and voices call out, "Empieza con el índice ilustrado! (Begin with the illustrated index!)" We flip to the index at the beginning of the Guía. We discuss basic identification points and decide to which basic group of birds the individual we are observing belongs. The students then make short work of the identification, making sure that the range map matches our location and that the key field marks*

highlighted in the photo and in the text match what they are seeing. One student calls out the correct identification: Hooded Oriole!

The forty-five biologists who attended the Mazatlán workshop returned to their Protected Areas with a Kaufman *Guía* and other tools for beginning or expanding bird monitoring efforts. Since 2005, through BSBO's DONATE THE GUIA program and the generous donations from many supportive individuals and organizations, including the Tucson Audubon Society, Kirtland Bird Club, Ohio Ornithological Society, and the Sky Island Alliance, SJV has distributed over 400 copies of the *Guía* to biologists, educators, students, and private landowners in Mexico (as well as to Spanish-speakers from the United States). We have used the *Guía* to train bird guides and monitoring biologists, support the implementation of Breeding Bird Surveys in Mexico, teach back-yard birders, and promote bird conservation with private landowners. *The Guía* has truly altered the way in which the SJV is able to accomplish its goals for bird and habitat conservation in Mexico.

You can support our efforts by purchasing one (or more) *Guías* for donation! BSBO has the process down to an art form. Just go to their website, click on the "Donate the *Guía*" link on the right-hand side, and follow the instructions.

Learn more about the work of the Sonoran Joint Venture and our partners by visiting us online: www.sonoranjv.org or like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sonoranjv.



BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Kenn Kaufman's all new Field Guide to Advanced Birding is hot off the presses and is now available in the BSBO gift shop and in the BSBO Online Swamp Shop.

During the BIGGEST WEEK, Kenn has graciously donated his time so that all of the proceeds for his programs will raise funds to support BSBO's research, education, and conservation efforts. Some of these workshops and programs are filled, but openings may occur as cancellations are processed so be sure to check festival registration for availability:

WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

Identifying and Appreciating Spring Warblers

Friday, May 6 at 3 p.m.

Understanding What You See For Better Bird ID

Friday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m.

At OurGuest Inn & Suites, Port Clinton

Basics of Identifying Shorebirds

Saturday, May 7 at 3 p.m.

Wake Up and Shade the Coffee

Saturday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

At Our Guest Inn & Suites, Port Clinton

Patterns of Bird Migration in North America

Sunday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m.

At OurGuest Inn & Suites, Port Clinton

Basics of Identifying Sparrows

Sunday, May 8 at 3 p.m.

Basics of Identifying Gulls

Monday, May 9 at 3 p.m.

Identifying and Appreciating Spring Warblers

Monday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Basics of Identifying Terns

Tuesday, May 10 at 3 p.m.

Basics of Identifying Birds of Prey

Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.

At OurGuest Inn & Suites, Port Clinton

Basics of Identifying Shorebirds

Wednesday, May 11 at 3 p.m.

Understanding What You See For Better Bird ID

Wednesday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

At OurGuest Inn & Suites, Port Clinton

Basics of Identifying Ducks

Thursday, May 12 at 3 p.m.

Patterns of Bird Migration in North America

Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.

At OurGuest Inn & Suites, Port Clinton

Identifying and Appreciating Spring Warblers

May 13 at 3 p.m.

Kingbird Highway: Extreme Birding in Another Era

Friday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Basics of Identifying Flycatchers

Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m.

FESTIVAL SPONSORS



To register go to:

www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

**THE BIGGEST WEEK
OPENING NIGHT
SOCIAL EVENT:
EVERYONE'S INVITED!**

Mango Mama's
in Port Clinton, Ohio

Everyone is welcome for The Biggest Week opening night social event hosted by Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) and Kaufman Field Guides (KFG)! Come and hang out with our guides, presenters, local birders, and birders from all over the world!

OOS and KFG will be raffling off some great prizes, and all the proceeds will support bird conservation programs!

The fun starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. (so we can all get some shuteye and be ready for all the great festival action in store for Friday!) There's no cover charge and no need to register, just come on in and have some fun! This is a great opportunity to pick the brains of our field trip leaders and local birders and get lots of great birding tips for your visit to northwest Ohio! Dinner and drinks will be available to order.

**Some Fun & Exciting BIGGEST WEEK opportunities:
Brought to you by Tropical Birding!**

The Biggest Half-Day Bird Race

Sunday, May 15, 2011

6 a.m. - 12 Noon

Teams of 2 people are invited to join in this half-day bird race running from 6 a.m. to noon.

Winning team receives:

**Four nights for two at the Tandayapa Bird Lodge, Ecuador
Courtesy of Tropical Birding**

There is no fee to participate in this activity!

The Bird of the Day Photo Contest

This Contest is Held Daily from

May 5 - 15, 2011

This competition is designed so that everybody has a shot at winning, the photos will not be of difficult birds to ID. For example, it could be an "in-your-face" Prothonotary Warbler or a larger than life photo of a Resplendent Quetzal from the Costa Rica pages of the Tropical Birding website.

Each evening of the Biggest Week in American Birding between 6 and 7 p.m., we will post two bird photos on the Tropical Birding Facebook page. One will be of a local bird seen that day during the Biggest Week, the other of an international species that can be found on the Tropical Birding website.

DAILY PRIZES!

**The GRAND PRIZE WINNER receives:
Tropical Birding Andes Introtour in Ecuador**

For race and contest details visit www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

OTHER "BIGGEST WEEK" PROGRAMS

(Read more about these programs by visiting www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com)

Wind Power: It's not Smart Unless it's Bird Smart, presented by Kelly Fuller with the American Bird Conservancy on Friday, May 6 at 1:30 p.m. at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

eBird: Good for the Birds, Good for You, presented by Ken Ostermiller on Saturday, May 7, at 1:30 p.m. at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center eBird, a real-time, online checklist program, can help you keep track of birds you have seen and show you where other birders have found the birds you want to see.

Tuning into Nocturnal Bird Migration, a presentation by Bill Evans on Saturday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

The Neotropical Waves of Spring Migration along Lake Erie's Southwest Shore, presented by Mark Shieldcastle, on Wednesday, May 11 at 1:30 p.m. at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

THE OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HAS A NEW MANAGER!

BSBO would like to welcome Jason Lewis and his family to northwest Ohio. The following is an excerpt from "Inside Region Three" a publication of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A native of Butlerville, Indiana, Jason Lewis spent the majority of his life living and working in the Midwest, primarily in Indiana where he attained his education at Ball State University. Lewis is certainly a product of his environment. Butlerville is one of the only towns in the country named after an ornithologist, Amos W. Butler. Rather apropos, given Lewis' profession and early interest in migratory bird conservation.



Jason Lewis, Manager,
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Ohio, however, is a new place to live and work for Lewis. "I was attracted by the multitude of partnership

opportunities, the biodiversity, and the thought of working in one of the most ecologically important wetland

systems in the United States, if not the world," Lewis says. "The Lake Erie marshes which include the refuge and surrounding public and private lands collectively are one of the premier birding hotspots in the country. The avian biological diversity one can encounter on any given day during any time of the year is truly remarkable; however, the spring migration is a sight that everyone with an interest in bird conservation should experience at least once in their lives." As a passionate birder and one interested in migratory bird research and conservation, Ohio was a good fit for him, his wife, Gwen and their two aptly named daughters, Willow and Wren.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR BIRDS & BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Camp Sabroske, located north of Oak Harbor, Ohio, features a peaceful 112 acres of birding and camping. Several miles of birding trails lead through the marsh and the woods as well as along the Toussaint River. Other walking areas provide an opportunity to view shorebirds, and nesting Bald Eagles, Trumpeter Swans, Indigo Buntings, and Yellow Warblers – just to name a few. Additionally, approximately 275 species of birds have been sighted at



Camp Sabroske

our campground. We are located less than a 5-minute drive from lovely Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and beautiful Lake Erie! In addition to terrific birding opportunities, Camp Sabroske provides RV and tent sites with electric and water as well as dorm rental for larger groups, Come

spend the day, night, week or month! You may even discover you would like to reserve a RV site for the entire camping season! Furthermore, two "rustic" cabins, a meeting room with kitchen, dorms, shelter house, outdoor chapel, and even the whole camp can be reserved!

The entire month of May we will be offering an early morning breakfast –for those who are staying with us as well as those who would just like to have breakfast and scope out the birding opportunities. Come hungry- for breakfast and ready for great birding! If you are looking for additional activities, Camp Sabroske has many areas for recreation including basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, hiking, swimming (in-ground pool), & two ponds for fishing, canoeing, paddle boating and birding.

Camp Sabroske is a family-run, nonprofit campground dedicated to the spiritual nurture and growth for all age groups within the community. To our great delight, we have recently been hailed as "the 'birdiest' camp in Ottawa County" by BSBO.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP IMPROVE EVERY ASPECT OF BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY'S MISSION – MATCHING DONATION CHALLENGE!

Dear BSBO Members,

As you know, the Observatory's research, education, and conservation efforts have grown exponentially over the last five years. A great thing, for certain; however, with growth comes added expenses, and BSBO is in need of some basic office systems upgrades in order to keep up with the growing demand for our bird conservation work.

I think our members will be surprised to learn that the BSBO staff carries out the Observatory's mission in a very small office space, with one very slow internet connection, and a single line phone.

Just imagine . . .

- ♦ How long it takes to complete internet searches for research projects
- ♦ How long it takes to download email or send an email with an attachment
- ♦ How long a wait there can often be for the phone to be free to return a call

Our current services are inadequate and this impacts our efficiency across all departments. We carefully researched our options and found that there are really only three choices for internet service at our BSBO home: dial-up, satellite, and T1 access. BSBO's first internet connection was dial-up before being upgraded (I use the word "upgraded" with reservation) to satellite service, and that has proven to be far too slow for our current needs.

The BSBO board has made great progress in working out an affordable solution. We've negotiated with our Black Swamp Birds & Business Alliance partners at OHIO TELECOM, for a very reasonable monthly T1 phone and

internet service. This service requires an agreement of three years, but it affords us faster internet service, free long distance calling, and reasonable access rates. We would also have the ability to add additional phones and phone lines at lower costs.

The good news is that we will be able to cover the increase in cost of this T1 project for the first year through a generous challenge donation (\$1,700) from a BSBO board member. This amount would also be matched AGAIN through this board member's corporate giving program!

However, we need the help of our members and supporters to help us meet this match in order to raise:

- ♦ Approximately \$1,800 for a refurbished, multi-line telephone system
- ♦ Funds for years two and three of the T1 service contract

We really need your help, and I ask that you consider a tax-deductible contribution toward this important project. Any amount you can give would be greatly appreciated by the BSBO staff and board. To make your contribution you may mail in a check to the address on the back cover of the newsletter, use PayPal through our website at: www.bsbobird.org, or call and charge your contribution to your credit card at: 419-898-4070 - just note that it is for the **T1 / Phone Upgrade Project**.

Thank you very much,
Delores Cole
Vice Chair



BSBO Board Member Receives Prestigious Award

Congratulations to Elliot Tramer. Elliot was awarded the Herbert Osborn Award by the Ohio Biological Survey, for advancing knowledge concerning the occurrence, distribution, taxonomy and ecology of the flora and fauna of Ohio. The award is named for the founder of the Ohio Biological Survey.

WINTER BLUES BLOWOUT by Doug Whitman, age 12

I already knew it would be a good trip when, on the way to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, four cars (including mine) pulled over to look at a flock of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. I jumped out, slipped, and promptly fell on my butt. I had slipped because the road was a solid sheet of ice. Not the best driving conditions, but still great birds.

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory sponsors the annual "Winter Blues Blowout" to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. This year, nearly 50 people participated including 17 birders from the Ohio Young Birders Club. Our target birds were uncommon winter visitors like the Northern Shrike, Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Rough-legged Hawk.

Once everyone got to Killdeer Plains, the first thing that we saw was a Northern Harrier gliding over the field, looking for something to eat. Then Jacob, his mother, my mother and I all stopped to stare at a Red-tailed Hawk. When we turned our attention back to driving again, we had lost the others in our caravan. We had to swallow our pride and call OYBC Advisor Gerry Brevoort to get directions.

Eventually everyone showed up to the Killdeer Plains Sportsmen's Center turning it into our base and cafeteria. In an effort to carpool, many of the students rode in the Black Swamp Bird Observatory bus that had come down that morning with a load of OYBC students. We found some interesting birds with the help of so many eyes. There were American Tree Sparrows feeding, some Rough-legged Hawks (a lifer for me), a Bald Eagle on a nest, a flock of Eastern Meadowlarks, some great views of Northern Harriers, a Northern Mockingbird, and three Red-tailed Hawks in one tree. After that, we went to a pine grove to look for wintering Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls. All of us looked in every pine tree we could find for an hour and a half, but no luck. I bet there were owls laughing at us the whole time, as we tried and failed to see them.

After walking around looking for owls, we were all hungry and headed back to the building to enjoy some sloppy joes and a potluck feast. For about an hour, we all hung out and talked birds, while the afternoon plan was decided on. Some of our group had to depart right after lunch. Those remaining from the Central Ohio Chapter needed to start meandering our way back home too and could not stay for afternoon birding at Killdeer Plains and at the nearby Big Island Wildlife Area. Eventually it was decided that Darlene Sillick, another OYBC advisor, would lead our 4-car convoy. It was very funny to have everyone leaning out windows to stare at the numerous Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, as well as a few American Kestrels. The best sighting of all, though, was when a sub-adult Bald Eagle flew within 30 feet of all of us! Everyone got great views.

The convoy drove out of the Wildlife Area after that and everyone peeled off in their separate ways, still occasionally pausing to

look at flocks of Horned Larks. Overall, we saw between 30-35 species of birds--not bad. It was the number of raptors that was most amazing! I estimated that we saw 20 Red-tailed Hawks, 10 Rough-legged Hawks, 5 Northern Harriers, 5 American Kestrels, and at least 6 Bald Eagles.

I can't wait to come back to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area for next year's Winter Blues Blowout.

Doug Whitman, age 12, is an active member of the Ohio Young Birders Club. He has participated in numerous field trips and service learning projects. In November 2010 he won an epic door prize at the Ohio Young Birders Conference, and in March 2011 he presented an update on the OYBC Central Ohio Chapter to Columbus Audubon. He has been birding since early 2009 and has a life list of 186 birds. In addition to birding, Doug enjoys soccer, video games, and keeping his cats indoors (away from bird feeders).



Doug Whitman
Photo by Gerry Brevoort



Ohio Young Birders Club
BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY

It all began in May of 2006 when six young birders met with the staff from Black Swamp Bird Observatory and other supporting organizations, agencies, and individuals, to discuss forming a club for young people with an interest in birds and nature. What they helped create was the Ohio Young Birders Club, a club for young people ages 12-18.

We could not have accomplished this without the support of so many of you. Many of you and your organizations have supported us with your donations of time and money. We want to thank all of you; parents, partnering organizations, supporters, and the Ohio birding community, who have helped us in this effort and provided us with the resources to make this club a success.

Sometimes you just gotta go birding!

To become an adult supporter or for more information visit:
www.ohioyoungbirders.org

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

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Anonymous
Maclyn & Carol Ball
Ronald & Barbara Bauer
Sue Belden
Joan Buechele
Joelle Buffa
Beth Cain
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EMPLOYEE MATCHING GIFTS & GIVING CAMPAIGNS

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Bird Watchers Digest
BP Fabric of America Fund
Energizer Matching Gifts
Program
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Just Give
Key Foundation
Kroger Rewards
Lubrizol Foundation
Network for Good

As of March 19, 2011

THANKS FOR DONATING A GUIA!

(Spanish Language Bird Guide)

Howard Besser
Steve & Beth Cagan
Hans Clebsch
Delores Cole
Stephany Erwin
Robert Finkelstein

Winthrop Gross
Cheryl Harner
Peggy Kaiser
Nick T. Kerlin
Nicole R. Kerlin
Phillip North

Barbara Padgett
Tom Pienkowski
Donna S. Queeney
Nancy Renkert
Cheryl Whipple
Eileen Zimlich

GIFTS WE HAVE RECEIVED

Case of Paper Towels
from Nadine Perry

Case of Garbage Bags
from Judy Williams

Case of Suet Cakes
from Bob Morrison

Thistle Seed, Sunflower
Seed & Feeders
from Charles Michener



MEMORIAL GIFTS

For Martha "Marty" Michener

Geo & Donna Costic
Mark & Mary Durbin
Jack & Bonnie Giroux
Stanley & Joanne Pentosos
George Popoff

For DeVere (O. D.) Line

Jean Alexander
Michael & Sharon Fisher
Roselyn Flannigan
Allen L. Holtzscher
Robert L. McClelland
Jerry & Shirley Pollock
Steven Thomas

As of March 19, 2011

WELCOME NEW BSBO MEMBERS!

**Black Swamp
Birds & Business Alliance**
American Bird Conservancy
Birds and Beans Coffee
Blackberry Corner Tavern
Deer Run Lodge
Eagle's Nest Sweet Retreat
Swarovski Optik USA
Zeiss Sport Optics

Supporting

Janet Duerr & Steven Schafer

Family

Jean Bremermann
Anne & Thomas Dorazio
Heather Findlay
Dave Fox
Marjorie Fuller
Terri Gorney
Geary, Rick & Sue Heft
George Jacobs
Beth Anne LaPlante
Sean Logan
Ken & Helen Ostermiller
Florence McCloud & William Purnis
Lewis Whitman
Jerry & Terry Williams
Bob & Kim Wistinghausen

Individual

Iver Brook
Sylvia Gray
Kathleen Klusman
Betsy Kolasky
Ryan Lesniewicz
Janet Modjeska
John Morgan
Robert Morris
Edith O'Brien
JoAnn Raine
Lisa Rainsong
Joy Rampello
Mark Shields
William Sido
Constance Vigno
Beverly Warner
Leon Wehmeyer
Cheryl Yankie

As of March 19, 2011

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 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 and we REALLY appreciate the people who help us out with this task. (like Tracy Marr, for example!) :)

☐ Maintenance

Mowing grass, keeping the walking trail clear of brush and litter, adopt-a-highway cleanup days, cleaning gutters, shoveling snow, maintaining our nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. You know, helping 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 training workshop to participate in this project, which is scheduled April 30th for the 2011th 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!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who do so much to help us! Without you, the Observatory's work would not be possible!

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 conserve birds and 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 the Observatory's Executive Director, Kimberly Kaufman, so that we can help ensure that your philanthropic goals will be met. She can be reached at 419-898-4070.

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 stock transfer details.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

SEE PAGE 11, MATCHING DONATION CHALLENGE

EQUIPMENT:

- Carl® 15" Heavy-Duty Rotary Paper Trimmer
- 20' x 30' white canvas tent
- Desktop PC for our administrative assistant
- LCD PowerPoint projector
- 6, 8-foot long Value-lite conference tables
- Two, 8-foot picnic tables

SUPPLIES, SOFTWARE, & MISC.:

- 10 mist nets for our songbird banding project
- HP LaserJet 53X black print cartridge
- HON 4-Drawer lateral filing cabinet
- Thistle seed for the bird-feeding station
- 45-gallon trash bags
- Recycled copy paper
- Recycled paper towels

Have you been given GIFT CARDS you will never use? Well, we can certainly use them!

- Staples or OfficeMax for office supplies
- Walmart for supplies
- Lowe's or Home Depot for maintenance supplies
- BP, Sunoco, or Marathon gas for the Bird Bus

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The BSBO Gift Shop is now carrying autographed copies of the newly published . . .

Kaufman Field Guide to Advanced Birding



YOU CAN HELP US CONSERVE BY SUBSCRIBING TO EMAIL DELIVERY OF THE BSBO NEWSLETTER

If you signed up for electronic delivery of the quarterly BSBO newsletter and have not received an email from us for awhile, (when your email bounces, we update your record to receive the newsletter by USPS) you may need to update your email address with us. To do so, please visit us at www.bsbobird.org and select the "BSBO Members Only Subscribe to Electronic Delivery of BSBO's Quarterly Newsletter" link. This will ensure that we have your latest email address on file.

If you do prefer email for our newsletter delivery, it's always good to consider checking your spam folder regularly to ensure that the BSBO emails are not being trapped.

Thank you for helping us conserve!

Members' Trip to the Navarre Songbird Banding Station

**Sunday May 22, 2011
8 a.m. to noon**

Meet at the Observatory. Join us for a morning viewing warblers, thrushes, and vireos up close as well as getting an update on BSBO songbird research. Space is limited and preregistration is required. Please call BSBO at 419-898-4070 to reserve your spot.

SAVE THIS DATE!
SUNDAY, August 7, 2011

Join us for our 19th Annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic, food, fun, and a chance to celebrate the extraordinary amount of time that our volunteers contribute to the Observatory.



May 5th - 15th

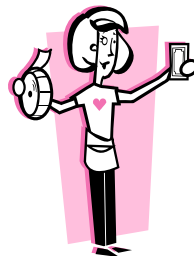
**Join us for the 2011
Biggest Week in American Birding!**

**To register go to:
www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com**

3rd Annual Midwest Native Plant Conference

Great News! The Midwest Native Plant Society conference committee is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 3rd Annual Midwest Native Plant Conference, to be held **July 8, 9 & 10, 2011**, at Bergamo Center in Dayton, OH. There is a great line-up of speakers, programs and field trips that are designed to "connect you with nature". All the conference vendors will be open to the public on Saturday, July 9, from 9:00 to 4:00 pm.

Registration and lodging forms, speaker, program and field trip information, as well as a conference agenda are all available at: www.midwestnativeplants.org.



YOU CAN WIN FABULOUS RAFFLE PRIZES!

Visit our Online Swamp Shop at www.bsbobird.org to purchase your ticket. Win some really great items AND support BSBO at the same time!

- ♦ Roger Tory Peterson Puffin Lithograph
- ♦ Vortex Skyline ED Spotting Scope
- ♦ One of two Adam Grimm ORIGINAL PAINTINGS

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

13551 W. State Route 2

Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

www.bsobird.org

419 -898-4070

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Time to renew your
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Black Swamp Bird Observatory Membership Renewal



Name: _____

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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