

NEWS HAWK



WINTER 2018

Enriching the Lives of our Avian Ambassadors

Mary Meixner, Curator of Birds

If you have visited the Sanctuary, you may have noticed that several of our birds are often out and about, roaming the visitor center, perched on a stump in the meadow, or out on the glove for a walk with one of our staff. Maybe you have noticed items in the birds' enclosures that seem like they don't belong, such as pumpkins, softballs, or cardboard boxes. If you're lucky, you may even have watched one of our crows working on getting an egg out of a paper towel tube. If you have witnessed any of these things, you already have an idea of what enrichment is.

Enrichment is a word that you will often hear or see on signage if you visit a sanctuary or a zoo. It involves manipulating a captive animal's environment in order to encourage natural behaviors, give the animal choices, and enhance the animal's welfare (definition adapted from www.nationalzoo.si.edu). At the Sanctuary, we enrich the lives of our birds in a variety of ways. Many of our birds live outside, so enrichment can be as simple as filling the bird feeders in the yard, which is the equivalent of turning on the TV for our hawks! Our indoor residents often get time outside of the enclosures they typically reside in. Our education animals, including our chickens, pigeon, and rabbit roam the visitor center during the day, the mice get time to explore in their ball, Kevin our osprey gets to hang out in the back with a view into the visitor center, and Phoenix our Harris Hawk also gets to watch "TV" by seeing all the critters running around the office.

Enrichment also includes giving the birds items to manipulate. Elliott our black vulture enjoys piles of leaves, Dolly the chicken loves to pick at snowballs, and Ichabod the Turkey vulture likes to shred paper towel tubes. Changing the perching in their mews can give them a new view and a new place to stand. Stuffing boxes with paper towels, hay, or newspaper and hiding treats inside allows them to work for their food, which is something they would do in the wild. All of these things give the birds choices and control over their environment.

Many of our birds are avian ambassadors. When they travel to a program, they see a different place and get to take in different sights and sounds. This enriches their lives as well. When they are not working and if it is a nice day, we may take them for a walk on our trails. For a while, Blaze, one of our Peregrine falcons, loved to go for a walk and then take a bath in the stream!

Enrichment is all about creating new and/or natural experiences for our birds, which allows them to engage in their environment and exercise choice and control. We evaluate enrichment activities to make sure they are safe and appropriate, but as long as certain guidelines are followed, there isn't really a wrong way to do enrichment. Along with good husbandry practices, it is an essential part of keeping our birds healthy and content.





From the Desk of the Director

Each year as I put together the Annual Report I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have such generous support of the Sanctuary and its mission. The support comes in a wide variety of forms: grants, gifts, planned giving, memberships, memorials and donation of professional services and food items for the birds.

2017 has been a year of improvements and the implementation of initiatives to move the Sanctuary towards a more self-sustaining organization. Improvements included the development of a Natural Play area for families and installation of fence around bird display area. The lobby is currently under renovations in which includes the installation of a second set of doors and a children's nature activity area. The new doors and the new split rail fence will shift the traffic pattern for entering the bird area through the Visitor Center allowing for monitoring of the number of visitors in this area and collection of a nominal fee to assist in supporting care of the birds.



The Sanctuary received the honor of being designated as a WILD School Site by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. WILD School Sites demonstrate program development and site enhancement where learning is brought to life by reconnecting children to the outside world while teaching everyday subjects through a specially designed curriculum. OBS also partnered with the ODNR Division of Wildlife and Wilderness Center

Chapter of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists to design and install a chimney swift tower. (seen in background)

I personally, and the Sanctuary lost a very dear friend this year. Nancy Fanello may have only stood a little over 5 feet tall but anyone who knew her, knew she was a woman of undeniable strength and determination. Nancy was involved with the Sanctuary for over 25 years. Her farm was a satellite facility for raising and releasing orphaned raptors providing the solitude they required for survival. Nancy assisted in the creation and clearing of the trail system and always ready to swing a hammer to assist in cage construction. Some of my best memories are the countless hours we spent training our Harris Hawk and Barn Owl for flight demonstrations. Her dedication and discipline was the key to success of these birds' training and the spectacular flights they performed. We will all miss her greatly.

Gail Laux

Founder/Director



OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY

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2017 Annual Report



The Ohio Bird Sanctuary is a private not for profit organization. It is a living museum providing professional care to native songbirds and raptors. It is a place for individuals to learn, explore and enjoy their natural world.

The Sanctuary is not supported by governmental agencies or tax dollars. The operations and sustainability of the organization depends on the generosity of individual and corporate donations, memberships, bequests, in-kind services and grants.

Financial Report

January 1- December 31, 2017

INCOME

Donations	107,351
Programming	48,128
Grants	41,782
In-kind Service	38,916
Endowment	19,223
Rental	11,322
Events	10,720
Membership	10,502
Gift Shop	8,598
Earthshare	5,274
Investments	<u>1,411</u>

\$303,227

EXPENSES

Bird Care	107,581
Education Programs	61,371
Property Management	34,179
Administration	25,470
Gift Shop	7,698
Events & Fund raising	5,280
Public Service	3,599
Rental	<u>3,199</u>

\$248,377



External Audit and 990 available upon request

Avian Report

The Ohio Bird Sanctuary admitted 286 birds for treatment and care in 2017. Of these 286, 70 were raptor species. We also fielded between 700 and 800 phone calls regarding birds that may or may not have been in trouble. Over the phone, we were able to coach callers through the situation at hand and discern if the bird needed to be brought in for care. Often times a baby bird can be placed back in its nest or a raptor is simply down on the ground feeding and these matters can be resolved without our intervention.



Our Flight Complex continues to be a unique and important part of the rehabilitation process, and one that other rehabilitation facilities are taking advantage of. We have received several raptor species from these facilities in order that the birds may go through flight conditioning before the final step: release!



Our collection of Avian Ambassadors gained two new members this year: Horton, the Great-horned owl, and Poppy, the American kestrel. These birds were both hatched this year and are human imprints. They are in training to become ambassadors for their species.



Programming Summary

The Sanctuary saw increased programming numbers in all areas in 2017. These programs serve all ages and ability levels across Ohio. Our programming staff includes Naturalists (3), Professional Educators (1), Environmental/Interpretive Educators (2), and an Educational Intern (1).



School & Community Outreach

990 students experienced outreach programming from OBS in school. This represents 45 classrooms in 22 different schools. Over 9,000 people experienced outreach programming in a variety of community settings. 37 different programs were offered in settings such as libraries, senior centers, camps, community events, civic meetings and museums. Weekly keeper talks were held each Saturday at the Sanctuary and Raptor Programs were offered at the Mohican Lodge each Saturday evening (April-Nov.), 16 fully accessible, on-site tours were offered for groups.

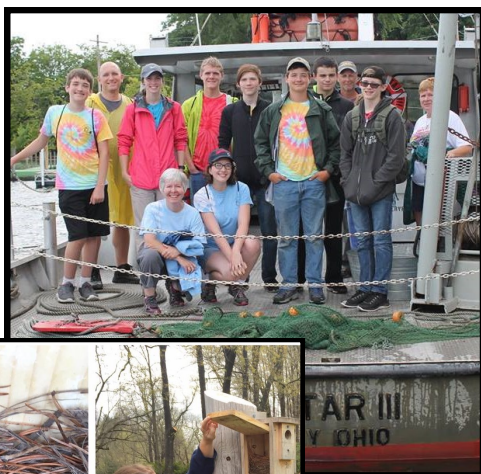
Field Trips

882 students came to the Sanctuary for a Field Trip from 20 different schools. Field trips range from 1.5-4 hours and can be individually catered for students pre-school aged through high school. 25 students who are home schooled experienced on-going programming over 9 monthly sessions.



Nature Camps

Camps designed to immerse children aged 6-12 in nature studies were offered throughout the year. This included 3 winter sessions, 1 spring session, and 5 summer sessions. 150 children participated. Additionally, 2 weeks of nature camps were offered for students from the Friendly House. Funding for the Friendly House Camp supplies is provided by the Richland County Foundation Summertime Kids Program.



Jr. Naturalists

The Jr. Naturalist program serves youth 13-17 years of age. These students who exhibit a strong affinity for nature participate in science-based educational experiences as well as service-based projects for the Sanctuary and other environmental organizations. In 2017, they donated their time to OBS and Gorman Nature Center and participated in various in-depth studies on Kelley's Island.

Special Events

Record attendance was seen at our special family events in 2017. The following were offered: Love Is In the Air (February,) Egg-Stravaganza (April,) Mohican Wildlife Weekend (April,) Family Night Hike (July,) Evening Owl Calling (Sept-Oct.,) Fall Family Festival (Oct) and Christmas for the Birds (Dec.) These events offer families low-cost opportunities for up-close encounters with our Avian Ambassadors as well as fun seasonal activities and crafts for all ages.





Ohio Bird Sanctuary 2017 Members

The following individuals are members of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. Their membership dues support the general operations of the Sanctuary. These funds provide food and medical supplies for the birds, support our educational programming and trail maintenance.



FALCON

Jim & Andrea Arnholt
Sharon Ault
Angus Barton*
Janet Kohr
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Ian Wilson
Gloria Yarger (deceased)



Annual Appeal Donors

The Annual Appeal supports the care of the birds, funds special projects and provides camp scholarships. Thank you to the following individuals who made a monetary donation or donated items from our Amazon or Elzy Milling & Trade wish lists.

(Some donations received through Amazon did not have donor info. Our apologies for any donor not recognized on this list.)

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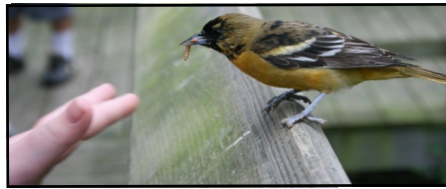
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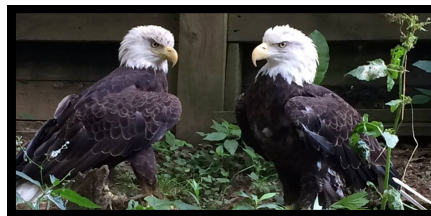
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 capacity building, capital improvements and
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 summer camp program and development
 of the Nature Scape area.



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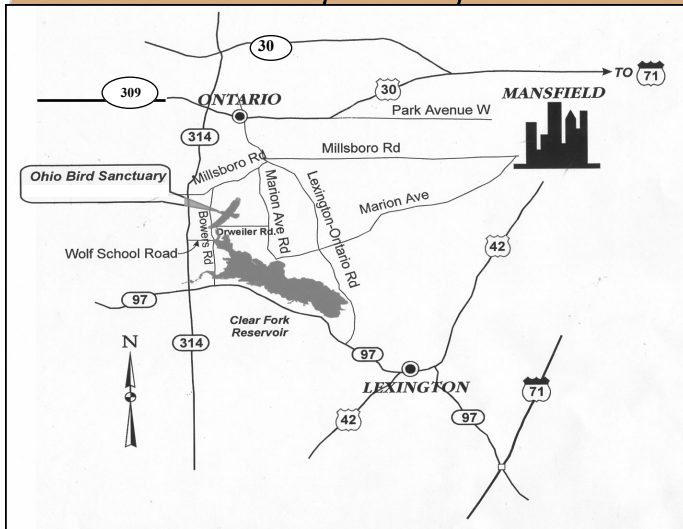
www.OhioBirdSanctuary.com

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Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday (new!) 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CLOSED: Mondays and Holidays



For more directions, Please see our Website.

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Your membership supports our programs and the care of the education birds.



Owl \$25

Annual newsletter and free admission to bird display area.

Hawk \$50

Owl member benefits plus free admission for two guests

Eagle \$100

Owl member benefits plus free admission for unlimited number of guests and a OBS mug

Falcon \$500

Eagle member benefits plus a OBS t-shirt and free admission to all OBS special events.



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