

NEWS HAWK

OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY



FALL 2019



Rookies of the Year by Mary Meixner, Curator of Birds



Training birds is a unique opportunity in more ways than one. For example, not many people can say that they have an eagle as their accountability partner. But when you have to be able to hold a 12.5 pound female eagle on your arm for any given length of time, that's what it boils down to! As Alice's primary handler, I have had to intensify my work-out routine and if I'm tempted to skip it after a long day at work, I have to think twice!

Alice, our female Bald eagle, has made a lot of progress in the last month with her training. She loves hanging out on the platform that we will perch her on for programs. She also goes in and out of her travel crate like it's no big deal, which is exactly what we want! A big part of the training process has been figuring out what we need to do to make training easy for her. For example, when she shifts

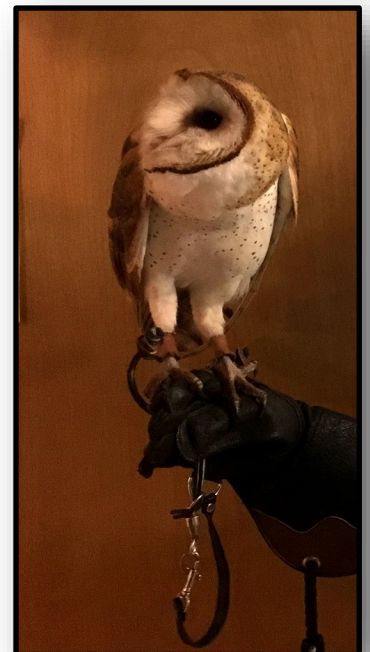
on the glove we need to be able to raise her up above our heads so she can extend her wings to help herself balance. Hence the need for me to work out! The next big step for Alice will involve moving the crate while she is inside it. A moving crate can be a lot different than a stationary one, but we are hopeful that Alice will conquer this milestone with confidence.

Alice isn't the only bird currently in training. We have been busy working with several new birds that have come to call OBS home within the last year. One of these is Pierce, the Broad-winged hawk. Pierce suffered injuries from what we believe was electrocution from contact with power lines. He quickly learned that we=food, and now he eats while standing on the glove quietly and allows us to thread jesses (equipment that he will wear for programming). We will continue to practice with his equipment and familiarize him with wearing it while being on the glove. After that, we will introduce him to his traveling crate. Diesel, our Red-shouldered hawk, will be pleased to have him on the Avian Ambassador team; right now, Diesel is our go-to hawk for programs and educates a lot of people!

Although he may not learn as quickly as Pierce, Cairo is making progress in his training as well! Cairo is a young Barn owl who was brought to us with limited vision. In the last month, he has become more familiar with wearing his equipment, standing on the glove, and going in and out of a travel crate. He has done remarkably well for a Barn owl that was raised in the wild. Living in our clinic area has helped him grow accustomed to us and spending time with him in training is contributing to building trust between him and us. Time and repetition are key factors to his success.

Two more new faces at OBS include Ellie, the Screech owl, and Sheryl, the American crow. Ellie was brought to us as an owlet who had suffered a fall that caused glaucoma in one of her eyes. She underwent surgery on the eye and is doing well! She already stands on the glove and is very familiar with the staff, so progressing to doing programs will most likely go very smoothly. Right now, she hangs out in the staff office during the day and supervises! Sheryl is an imprinted crow who is now in the very early stages of training, which is mostly about building a relationship with her. She is very intelligent and building a foundation of trust using positive reinforcement will be our protocol to understanding her role as an ambassador for her species.

Each year at OBS seems to bring more demand for our educational programming, so we are looking forward to incorporating these rookie Avian Ambassadors into the schedule as soon as they are comfortable and confident. They will inspire people to care about birds and wild spaces, which is a huge part of our mission at OBS!



Dear Friends of OBS 



We have exciting news!!! Nelson Treehouse & Supply (known as the Treehouse Masters on Animal Planets) are coming to Mansfield! They will be providing their expertise and talents to build an Accessible Treehouse Classroom at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary!

The intent of the Treehouse Classroom project is to expand outdoor educational opportunities for all our visitors including individuals with disabilities that require the use of a wheelchair for mobility. The barrier-free Treehouse Classroom will be near the field classroom and the outdoor NatureScape area (natural playground). The bridge to the treehouse will begin at the field classroom and extend across a spring-fed tributary stream to a sycamore tree. This distinctive treehouse classroom space will be a place to learn about the treetop biome and is a destination for visitors to immerse themselves in nature. It will open doors to environmental education, birding, wildlife photography, and enjoyment of the out-of-doors. The accessible bridge will be a level extension of the existing walkway to the field classroom. The bridge begins at ground level but as the terrain descends into the forest habitat the visitors rise into the treetops!



Creating a treetop learning place connects all visitors with forest adventures and unique opportunities and aligns with our mission and core values. OBS works hard to ensure every program participant gets a chance to spend time outside and explore nature. Adding a treehouse classroom and boardwalk trail creates more outdoor teaching space and protects the trail system during wet weather. It will be a unique classroom for everyone, especially for groups with individual that have mobility issues. The accessibility of the treehouse classroom will allow the entire class to explore the Sanctuary together.

The Treehouse classroom and bridge will be constructed by the Nelson Treehouse Masters. They are excited to work with a non-profit providing nature education and accessible outdoor experiences. The Project Manager, Daryl McDonald, and architect, Daniel Ash, will do a site visit in October to survey trees and the build site for the start of the design process. The Treehouse classroom and bridge construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2020 and pending weather delays, it could be ready for a grand opening by the late summer!

Community partners for this project include donated labor and financial support - both pending and committed. We currently have \$50,000 of funding committed from an Anonymous Fund of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County and \$75,000 committed through the Robert & Esther Black Family Foundation of the Richland County Foundation. There is an additional \$100,000 pending. Our hopes are that the community and our supporters will get behind his incredible project and assist us to raise the remaining \$75,000 needed to complete the construction phase. If you would like more information on this project and how you can be a part of its success please contact me at 419-884-4295.

More excited than words can express,

Gail Laux

Gail Laux, Founder



The Benefits of Membership Abby Bramlage, Operations Assistant

Thinking about becoming a member of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary? The Sanctuary offers four levels of membership starting at \$25. Members get free admission to the Sanctuary for a year, and receive discounts to events and camps throughout the year. As a members you also receive advanced notifications for camps and events that fill up fast. For example, one of our most popular events, *Christmas for the Birds*, requires registration for a limited number of spaces. Members have the opportunity to sign up for these spots first!

It is a great time to become a member because we have just added two new benefits. Your membership is now part of a reciprocal program with over 250 nature centers nationwide providing you with free admission or discounts at these centers. Also, this fall we added extended open hours to members on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. On these days we are open until 7pm for members to enjoy the tranquility of the Sanctuary.

~Memberships can be purchased on our website or in the visitor center at the Sanctuary~



Speaking of Santa... it is never too early to start thinking about your holiday shopping. We have gifts for families, friends, neighbors and teachers. Do you have a nature lover on your list this year? A membership to the Sanctuary, which covers free admission for a year or an Adopt-A-Bird make great gifts. When you Adopt-A-Bird your purchase goes toward the care of the bird and you get to meet the bird up close. You can also send a child to one of our many camps we offer throughout the year. Our gift shop inside our visitor center is full of unique gifts. If you are not sure what to get, you can always purchase an Ohio Bird Sanctuary gift card that can be used towards memberships, camp fees, and gift shop items.



Summer Camp Adventures Emily Smith, Director of Programs

It was a very busy but fun summer here at the Sanctuary! This year, we had over 60 children participate in our summer camps! We explored streams, built shelters, and met all sorts of critters. The campers solved animal mysteries, exploded paper-mâché volcanoes, and competed in "Animal Olympics." Watching the campers enjoy the outdoors, make new friends, and blossom into young nature enthusiasts were my favorite parts of camp. I hope their experiences at OBS this summer have encouraged them to continue exploring and learning about the natural world! Thank you for sharing your children with us this summer!

Even though summer 2019 camps are over, our camps continue all year! We just completed Fall Evening Camp and explored some of the sights and sounds of nature at dusk! Next, we will have Winter Camps! Dates and themes will be posted on our website soon! (Members will receive an advance notice as well as discounts on camps.)

Looking at the future of Summer Camps, I am very excited about the new addition of our Accessible Treehouse Classroom. This classroom will be located up in the trees giving campers a true "bird's eye view"! Campers will be able to participate in all sorts of activities in the Treehouse such as bird watching, science projects, crafts, and games. I anticipate much of our camp experience being centered around this classroom in the trees! We predict construction of the Treehouse will take place during the summer of 2020. The Accessible Treehouse Classroom will then be ready for use during summer 2021 camps! I can't wait for this new addition to the Sanctuary and our camp experience.



Shelter Building

Steam Study

Owl Pellets

Evening Camp Hike

Wildlife CSI

OBS Summer Internship Experience

Cassandra Clift, Bird Care Intern



This summer, I had the opportunity to be the summer bird care intern at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. I'm from Hillsboro, Oregon (near Portland) so I found and applied for this internship through the OBS website. I'm attending Brigham Young University in Utah, majoring in Technology Engineering with a personal emphasis in avian studies.



While at the Sanctuary, I had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with birds and be taught by experts. I also learned as much as I could about several different species of raptor and had the opportunity to teach visitors about them by giving keeper talks. That was one of my favorite parts of this internship. I've always

been "that friend" that shares bird facts but this summer I had the golden-ticket opportunity to have different OBS ambassador birds on the glove and share their stories and species facts with visitors. Hearing people 'ooh' and 'ahh' whenever I brought out a new bird never got old. This internship experience is easily one of the most well-planned and valuable hands-on bird internships in the world. I learned a ton and I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to be part of the OBS family this summer!

Katlyn Bing, Education Intern



My experience at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary is something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I am a senior Biology and Environmental Science major at Ashland University. When people ask me what kind of work I want to do post-graduation, I now know what to say, thanks to my experience at the sanctuary. The wonderful staff at OBS took great care to mentor me and encourage me in this journey. I have learned an amazing number of things about myself and about birds in the short time that I had at OBS as the summer education intern.

The duties and responsibilities that came along with this job were daunting at first, especially when observing how capable and strong the women are who run this place. The education intern is expected to assist with the public and bird care. This included cleaning enclosures, feeding the birds, and occasionally

scrubbing some poop. The staff at OBS also emphasized the importance of learning the bird's stories. At first, this made my head spin because there are roughly 70 birds in their care. But, with some studying and help from the staff, I was able to learn their stories and truly appreciate the foundational reasoning behind the operation of a business like this: the care of the birds.

The public interaction required in this job was intimidating at first. The expectations were to eventually execute bird shows solo and take point on select programming involved with OBS summer camps. Although I struggled at first, the encouragement and guidance of my superiors helped me grow into my role. By the end of summer, I was performing bird shows, giving tours of the facility, assisting with programming for camp, and doing my best to represent OBS

Prior to my experience at OBS, I had some experience working with kids, but I had never experienced working directly with the general public. Needless to say, I was a bit nervous, but it gave me something to prove to myself. It also shows the power of what a little belief in someone can do. I really wanted to capture the magic of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary when I spoke about it to people, because it truly is a place where diligence and kindness trickle down into every aspect of the facility. From the kindness shown to the animals to the kindness shown to the workers, they truly value the meaning of sanctuary.



Internships are generously funded through the Fran & Warren Rupp Fund of





FALL FEST

OCT. 12, 2019
10AM-4PM

3774 ORWEILER ROAD, MANSFIELD

ADMISSION:
MEMBERS \$10/CAR
NON-MEMBERS \$20/CAR

Kid's crafts and activities

Food and drinks

Raptor Encampment - meet our feathered friends up close

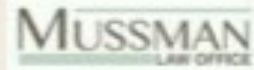
Adventure trail - 1 mile trail of fun challenges

Cook over a camp fire

Columbus Zoo at 1:00pm

www.ohiobirdsanctuary.com

419-884-4295





BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ohio Bird Sanctuary
3774 Orweiler Road
Mansfield, OH 44903

NEWS HAWK

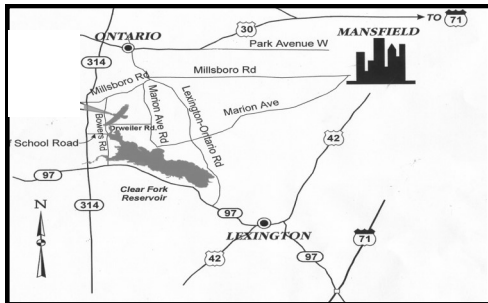
**Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mansfield, OH
Permit # 114**

Or current resident

Visitor Center and Trail Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm Sunday 12 -4 pm
Closed Monday and Holidays

Admission to Bird Display Area
\$1/Child & Military \$3/ Adult
Members Free



WWW.OHIOBIRDSANCTUARY.COM

Become an Ohio Bird Sanctuary member today and receive free admission and invitations to member only events!



Owl \$25

Free admission for one household to bird display area, invitation to member only events and discounts on camps, programs and events.

Hawk \$50

Owl level benefits plus free admission to bird display area for two guests and \$5 gift certificate.

Falcon \$100

Owl level benefits plus free admission to bird display area for eight guests and \$10 gift certificate.

Eagle \$500

Owl level benefits plus free admission for ten guests, \$25 gift certificate and discount on rentals.



Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____