

A PLACE FOR FAMILIES - A PLACE TO LEARN - A PLACE TO EXPLORE - A PLACE FOR NATURE

A PLACE TO LEARN IN THE TREES!

We are excited to announce that the Treehouse Classroom and accessibility bridge has been completed! We are waiting for a few final elements to be added for easy wheelchair accessibility, but we are excited to start implementing this incredible space into our educational programs.



It was an incredible process to witness, and the craftsmanship of the crew from Nelson Treehouse and Supply is second to none. The roof of the classroom bends around a majestic Sycamore tree like a pair of wings, the observation deck overlooks a serene stream bed, and the accessible bridge winds through the forest with the highest location simulating a large nest. It is truly a magical place!



We celebrated the completion of the build by the Nelson team on August 21 and plan to hold an open house for members in late September. The public will have an opportunity to tour the classroom on October 16th during our Fall Family Festival event. After the Festival, the bridge will be open seasonally to the public during our regular business hours. The classroom will be utilized for school fieldtrips, camps, scheduled tours, and special presentations.

It was through the efforts of many that this project was a success. Thank you to all the volunteers who collected saplings and branches for the nest (Woody Woods, Winn Meeks, Daniel Mace, Larry Smith, Chuck Hagan and Jonah Nolte, and Bryar, Olivia, and River Dunn. Our crews were fueled through the lunches provided by Lisa Mace, Mary Collet, Sonn Hupp and Der Dutchman. We are grateful for the support of Culligan for the donation of water coolers. The installation of the deck boards and saplings along the railing was the combined effort of Mansfield Rotary Club members (Scott Young, James Twedt, Kyle Swigart, Harry Fietchen, Jay Gilbert, and Michael Dailey) and Noon Optimist members (Dave Siebold, Chuck Hootman, Bill and Jeri Rea, Dan Herrold, Andy Kershaw, Tom Stortz, and Tom Risacher). Last but not least, we greatly appreciate Nelson Treehouse & Supply donating of a portion of the labor.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

I am excited to announce the launch of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary's Wings Capital Campaign, the organization's first major capital campaign in its 33-year-history. It will build on the success of its recent Treehouse Classroom project and add \$3 million in improvements and enhancements to produce an all-day excursion for visitors from Ohio and surrounding states. The campaign will also provide an important maintenance trust for long-term sustainability.

Project 1: Visitor Center

Because we are passionate about our mission to rehabilitate and return sick, injured, or orphaned birds to the wild, a major project is the reconfiguration of the existing 1,400 Visitors Center. This building currently is the shared space of a welcome area and information desk, a small room for critical bird care, and several small recovery rooms used for birds in rehabilitation, plus restrooms, small gift shop, and 150 sq ft common planning/workspace for staff. To improve the function of this building, the existing bird receiving area will be converted into office and volunteer break room, a new triage /critical care area with separate entrance and a new baby bird nursery will be added to the south side of Visitor's Center. The new triage area will provide the necessary isolation recovering birds require and the nursery with large windows will provide the public and school groups the opportunity to have a behind the scenes view of the rehabilitation efforts.

Project 2: Education Center

To support the growing needs of our programming and address structural issues to aging structures this phase has two main initiatives. (1) The Education building's leaky roof will be replaced and the aging driveway and parking areas will be patched and asphalted. (2) A new area with enclosures for our Avian Ambassadors with a small seating area will be constructed adjacent to the Education Center. This will provide an educational space for school groups and camps separate from our visitors as we provide an area for bird training and enrichment.

Project 3: Trail System

A major project will be improving our 90 acre nature preserve and making our trails more accessible for educational programs. The trail system will be expanded to include 1.5 miles of additional trails, an overlook of the marsh areas and educational areas. The educational kiosks along the trails and at the overlooks will be built to connect visitors to nature and provide educational experiences for visitors on the subjects of Ohio wildlife, and native trees and plant life.

Project 4: Maintenance Trust

A fund is being established to ensure a lifetime of income for the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. As the many projects of Wings are being completed, a cost increase in utilities and general maintenance will result. Income from this new fund – along with the increase in visitors – will help cover the additional expenses that will occur after expansion. Including this new, long-term maintenance trust as a beneficiary of Wings is a very sound financial approach for the Sanctuary's future.

Please considering supporting the Spreading Our Wings Capital Campaign for our growing organization, nature education, conservation, environmentalism, and to outdoor tourism.

For more information:

- Click on the "Support Us" tab on our website www.ohiobirdsanctuary.com
- Pick up or request a campaign brochure.
- Contact Campaign Leader Chris Harris at chrissharris@embraqmail.com or call 419-610-3182

Thank you in advance for your support!

Gail Laux



FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY — OCTOBER 16th

- **Treehouse Classroom Open House**
- **Bird Shows**
- **Children Activities**

10am - 4pm

Members \$15/car
Non-member \$25/car



Spreading Our Wings Campaign
OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY

"Thanks to the efforts of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary's staff and volunteers, thousands of visitors, representing a diversity of ages and walks of life, have learned to respect and appreciate nature."



Project 1: Visitor Center
Renovation, Bird Care Clinic Rehab, Baby-bird Nursery



Project 3: Woodland Trail System
Expansion, Upgrades, Educational Opportunities, Accessibility for All



Project 4: Maintenance Trust



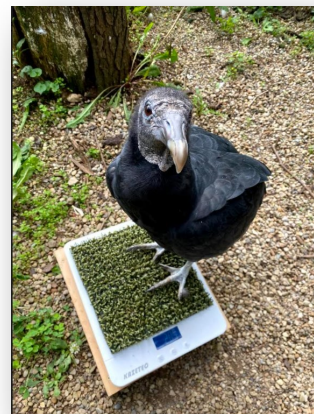
Project 2: Education Center
Renovation, New Enclosures for Birds Used in Nature Education, Outreach



BIRD TALES

By Amanda Maugans - Curator of Birds

Here at the Sanctuary, there is always something new and exciting! One of the things I am most excited to share with our bird loving community is the hard work and training our staff and birds are doing! We have multiple birds that have been on rigorous and structured training schedules, daily. These training sessions are helping us develop stronger relationships with the birds and it is benefiting their lives in captivity on many levels! These training sessions can be as simple as asking a bird to step on a scale to get its weight or as involved as having the bird crate itself, fly to a glove, or fly to multiple different points.



Working with our birds like this to teach them behaviors on command not only assists us in keeping a closer eye on their health, but it also offers an opportunity for the bird to use critical thinking skills as a form of enrichment. All together, these behaviors will ultimately promote a better quality of life in captivity and provide a sense of confidence in our avian ambassadors. These birds are essential to our mission in teaching people to be strong stewards for our environment, no matter the size.

We are encouraging our guests to come experience the hard work our staff and birds put in everyday. Keeper Demonstrations will be held Tuesday -Saturday at 11am so everyone has a chance to see all of the new and exciting things we are working on! Plus, we are always available for questions!



New Bird Care Position at OBS Bird Care Technician - Whitney Gibbons

I first came to the Ohio Bird Sanctuary as the 2016 & 2017 summer bird care intern, and I am very eager to be brought back on staff as our new Bird Care Technician. I am a 2019 graduate from Purdue University with a B.S. in Wildlife Studies with a vast background in ornithology and habitat and species management. My primary role at the Sanctuary is to oversee and implement the rehabilitative efforts of the organization and to assist our Curator of Birds in maintaining the highest standard of care for all of the birds.

One of my favorite aspects of the job is the ability we have to provide professional and compassionate care in our rehabilitative efforts while minimally infringing upon a bird's wild nature. From my time at the sanctuary, I have learned that rehabilitation is an art consisting of the balance between patience, observation, creativity, and consistent learning in order to provide the best care possible.

As our busy summer comes to an end, it is exciting to reflect on the accomplishments of our organization. From the beginning of June to date, we have successfully rehabilitated and released twenty-four raptors, and have added two raptors as avian ambassadors amongst our permanent residents here at the Sanctuary. Currently, the Sanctuary has eight raptors in the final stages of rehabilitation, where we will assess their flight and hunting abilities to determine whether or not they will be able to be released.

Two of these raptors are barred owls, which suffered head trauma and wing injury due to car accidents. Initially, both of these owls had a very low probability of making a full recovery, however, through patience, time, and a lot of care, both are looking very promising to be released within the next few weeks.



Whirlwind of a Summer!

Emily Smith-Director of Operations

This past summer was a whirlwind of camps, programs, treehouse construction, and new birds! We knew it would be a crazy summer, and it certainly was, but we couldn't be more grateful to be doing what we do.

As always, summer camps were a blast! We held six weeks of Nature Camp for students 6-12 years old and two weeks of Junior Explorers Camp for students 4-6 years old! Through all the hikes, games, crafts, and activities, we thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each child that joined us for camp.



Now that summer is coming to an end, we are looking forward to all the fun things that comes with fall and students being back in school. Our home school and preschool programs have started here on site (if you would like more information, check out our website for sign-up details). Field trips will begin soon as well. All of this is even more exciting because we will get to use our brand-new Treehouse Classroom!



As you all know, the Treehouse Classroom project has been a work in progress for quite some time. The dream started many years ago, and we are so excited to finally see it come to fruition! The Treehouse Classroom will be exactly that—a classroom in the trees! It will be utilized for field trips, camps, home school programs, and preschool programs. The Treehouse Classroom can also be added to other on-site programs.

Just as incredible as the Treehouse Classroom is the accessibility bridge that leads up to the Classroom. This approximately 200 ft walkway winds around trees as it connects the area near the Field Classroom to the new Treehouse Classroom. A part of this walkway is "The Nest" platform which is the highest part of the entire structure, and it offers a nice view of the forest and stream below. This walkway will be accessible to visitors as a wonderful addition to our trail system.



There is a lot of exciting stuff happening at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, and none of it would be possible without the support we get from this community! So, thank you for sending your child to camp, thank you for scheduling programs here at the Bird Sanctuary, and thank you for jumping on board with this idea of a Treehouse Classroom! We are so grateful for all of the support we have received this past summer!

New Education Staff Member

Amanda Hull -Lead Naturalist

Hi everyone! My name is Amanda Hull, and I am delighted to fill the Lead Naturalist position at the Sanctuary. Growing up with a passion for working with animals and children, I graduated this past May from the Ohio State University with a degree in Zoology.



I started at the Sanctuary by accepting the Winter Education Intern position, which carried into the Summer Education Intern position.

I guess my work as an intern was satisfactory, because I was offered this new role! I was told I am, "Not allowed to leave"! This position falls under the Education department of the Sanctuary, and I hope to expand programming with fresh eyes and new ideas! Along with expanding the Education branch, I will continue to lead camps, on and off site programs, home school, other events, and some general Sanctuary maintenance.

In the near future, I hope to take over and develop the volunteer unit for the Sanctuary! I am so grateful to be part of this amazing organization, and I cannot wait to see where it leads!



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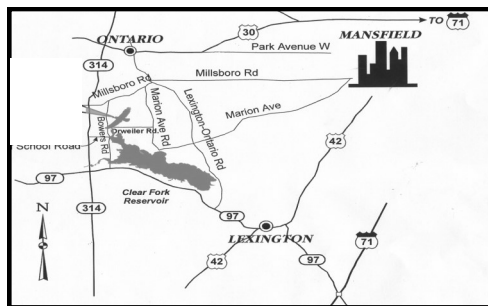
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Return Service Requested

Visitor Center and Trail Hours

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

Admission
\$3/Child (3-15 years old) & Military/Veteran \$5/ Adult
Members Free



Become an Ohio Bird Sanctuary member today and receive free admission and discounts on programs and events!



Owl \$25 Free admission for one household to bird display area and discounts on camps, programs, and events.

Hawk \$50
Owl level benefits plus free admission to bird display area for four 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, and \$25 gift certificate.



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